THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 27, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

4 HURT IN FIRE ON SWISS JET IN DELHI

Four passengers were injured during evacuation after a Swiss International Airlines jet carrying 245, including four infants, aborted takeoff from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport due to a fire in the early hours of Sunday. A source said the passengers were injured during the evacuation process and are being treated at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. It is not clear how they were injured. | **P10**

SHRI SIDDARAMAIAH
HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER

Department of School Education & Literacy

SHRI D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
HONOURABLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

ADMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

You can enroll your children in any class.

This is the Government's
EDUCATION GUARANTEE

Karnataka Model School Education!!

3 In 3 years, ours will be the best government school system in the country!!!

FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ITS SCHOOLS:

Government schools offer more than free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, mid-day meals, and milk! **This year has seen a huge rise in results!! An even bigger improvement in government schools and colleges!!!**

8 STEPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
THESE ARE THE EDUCATION GUARANTEES.

Guarantee 1
No more teacher shortage: one teacher per class up to Grade 5, and subject-wise teachers from Grade 6 onwards.

Guarantee 2
Medium of instruction as parents prefer: Along with Kannada, English medium is available in all schools; teachers receive special training to teach in English.

Guarantee 3
Free transport facility: KPS students are provided free transportation.

Guarantee 4
Digital education: Computer learning from Grade 1 and AI from Grade 3; computer teachers will be appointed in all KPS Schools within 3 years.

IN THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
A HISTORIC RISE IN EXAM RESULTS.

SSLC Exam-1
94.10%

2nd PUC Exam-1
86.48%

Guarantee 5
Art and physical education: Dedicated teachers for music, art, and physical education; recruitment of physical education teachers begins this year.

Guarantee 6
Relief from non-academic work: Separate staff for non-teaching tasks; teachers can focus only on teaching.

Guarantee 7
Monitoring learning quality: Lesson Based Assessment system to track each child's progress, and mandatory parent–teacher meetings every two months.

Guarantee 8
Skill Education and Competitive Examinations training: Skill Education from Grade 6 and special coaching for competitive examinations.

When are these changes being introduced?

Some key changes will take effect starting this year itself, and you will begin to see the transformation within 2–3 years.

What is our five-year goal?

Our government school system will be the best in the country! **This is our guarantee!!**
Over 5 million children will enroll in government schools! **This is our resolve!**

ಪೋಷಕರ ಧ್ವನಿ

We welcome all your suggestions

We seek everyone's support and welcome suggestions from education experts, organisations, and parents on this Karnataka model of education reforms. Your suggestions will help us improve our services and address internal and external challenges.

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

Better learning
A Brighter future

What is the new KPS concept? Scan here!

To share your views and suggestions...

Email: edkarnataka@gmail.com | WhatsApp Number: 94489 99314

ShalaShikshanaKarnataka

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 27.04.2026 • Year: Parabhava • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Ekadasi 7.45 pm
• Nakshatra: Purva Phalguni 10.45 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 36°C
FORECAST
Partly cloudy

Sunrise 06.00 am
Sunset 06.34 pm
Moonrise 03.07 pm
Moonset 02.55 am

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 27.04.2026 newindianexpress.com

GBA FOR MORE HIGHRISES TO CONTROL CITY SPRAWL

Cites Bengaluru's horizontal expansion rather than vertical growth

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

WITH the urban development department urging the defence ministry and the ministry of civil aviation to ease the building height restrictions around the airports in Bengaluru, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is keen on encouraging the construction of high-rise buildings. Officials in the GBA's town planning department said high-rise buildings are the future to accommodate the city's growing population.

An official in the town planning department said, "Compared to other cities in India, Bengaluru has fewer high-rise buildings. The city has many low-rise buildings spread across large plots of land, resulting in horizontal expansion rather than vertical growth. Urban sprawl (unplanned expansion characterised by low-density development), compared to other cities, is more prevalent in Bengaluru."

The restrictions on the building height around airports have curtailed the vertical growth in Bengaluru, the official said. "In several cities, such as Singapore, Amsterdam, Dallas, London and Dubai, the areas around the airports are being developed into multi-use spaces such as office, entertainment and residential areas. The airports are leading the urban transformation by becoming major employment hubs and urban centres, rather than being just transport nodes," the official said, urging the defence and aviation ministries to limit the height restrictions to only up to 15km from the aerodrome reference point, instead of 20km.

The official said that worldwide, compact development is the future and the restrictions on high-rise buildings will severely hamper the development of the core city area and impact the transit-oriented development and comprehensive mobility plan. He said that because of this, the precious land in the city is getting wasted, and the cost of laying the necessary infrastructure is becoming high.

Sharing an example, the official said, "The cost of laying infrastructure for a one square kilometre area gets doubled for a two square kilometre area. However, the cost would go up by around 10%, to provide infrastructure for vertical growth in the same one square kilometre area."

The official said the Premium Floor Area Ratio (PFAR) was introduced to fight urban sprawl and develop urban areas more densely. He was hopeful that the request by the state government would be accepted and pave the way for high-rises around the airports and the city.

Highrise norms around HAL airport have pilots divided

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

THE state government is currently in a stalemate with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) authorities, stemming from the latter's insistence on applying height restrictions for buildings within 20-km radius around the HAL Airport. While Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on April 24 sought the intervention of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh into the matter, pilots are split regarding the necessity of such a restriction.

The contention surrounds the GSR 751(E) directive issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) back in 2010, which states, "No structure shall be constructed or erected, or any tree planted or grown on any land within a radius not exceeding 20 km from the Aerodrome Reference Point of the civil and defence aerodromes."

The MoCA's directives are, however, not definitive. In the case of defence airports like the HAL's, no-objection certificates (NOCs) for construction can be granted from the relevant officers as per their discretion. In a letter written by Shivakumar to Singh on April 21, the former said the HAL had been imposing "excessive restrictions" that were detrimental to the development of Bengaluru, the airport being situated in a core area of the city.

Captain (retd.) Gurudath Kavalu, who has flown in and out of HAL Airport multiple times in his career, said, "Nobody should be questioning the decision making [of HAL officials]. They are flying SEPECAT Jaguars and Mikoyan MiG-29s around the airport. If they deem the restrictions crucial to their operations, we must respect it."

President of Air Lines Pilots Association (ALPA), India, Captain Sam Thomas, however, believes that the restrictions are redundant and outdated. "There should be concrete reasons behind such restrictions. A while ago, they (HAL) asked the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) to switch off their floodlights. Under what authority didi they do it, when all over the world there are golf courses next to airports?" he asked.

Captain Thomas, who alluded to the viable operations of airports surrounded by high-rises like Hong Kong International Airport, said that operationally, having buildings in close proximity to an airport poses little to no threat, especially in modern aviation. "Flights operate through particular channels or corridors. The restriction is part of a very old rule. For civil and military aircraft alike, there is no scientific reason for this rule to exist," he said.

Following Shivakumar's meeting with Singh, HAL held an internal meeting on April 25, the outcome of which is yet to be made public.

OMAR-ATHON

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah takes a break during the TCS World 10K Marathon in Bengaluru, on Sunday. More than 36,000 runners participated in the 18th edition of the event, organisers said | KEVIN NASHON

30,000 SQ FT SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTRE UNVEILED

BENGALURU: ParSEC Whitefield, a science and innovation centre spread across 30,000 sq ft, was inaugurated by Param Foundation on Sunday. Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairperson Dr K Radhakrishnan and Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan formally inaugurated the facility. The centre was designed to make science accessible with interactive exhibits. The principle is the same as that of ParSEC Jayanagar, which has trained more than 55 teachers in experiential learning and conducted more than 52 workshops across various disciplines. Radhakrishnan said that science is not a subject to be memorised, "It is a way of life to be experienced. By making these concepts accessible to every child in Bengaluru, we are planting the seeds for India's next generation of space explorers and deep-tech innovators." Gopalakrishnan said, "Bengaluru's greatest asset is its talent, but that talent needs a playground like this to experiment and fail before it can succeed in the real world." ENS

GBA launches online e-khata download

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ALL five city municipal corporations have enabled online e-khata download, which allows property owners within the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) limits avail the facility using their property tax credentials. Officials at the GBA said the aim is to make available about 13 lakh e-khatas immediately to citizens, removing all red tape and delays in the process.

Citizens can visit https://BBMPeAasthi.karnataka.gov.in, login using mobile and OTP, enter SAS (Self-Assessment System) Application Property Tax ID and download the e-khata instantly. Officials said this move will remove the need to search for e-khatas with the owner's name. They said that because the option is online, people do not need to visit any corporation offices.

"Citizens will also receive ready-to-download e-Khata link via SMS / WhatsApp (on registered mobile number in Property Tax System)," GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said in a statement on Saturday.

These e-Khatas are issued on an "as-is-where-is" basis based on existing records. To make the e-Khata complete and to do a transaction in the sub registrar office, the residents will need to update online their Aadhaar & e-KYC, registered sale deed, property details (GPS & Photo) and BESCOM ID (if applicable).

EXPRESS READ

Harsha Public School achieves 100% pass in CBSE Class 10 exam

BENGALURU: Harsha International Public School, Nelamangala, has achieved a 100% pass in the CBSE Class 10 examinations. Out of 90 students who appeared for the examination, 54 secured distinction, while 36 passed in first class. Gagana Y topped with 98%, followed by Lochana with 97.4% and Sneha N with 95.8%. Other top performers include Hamsaveni (95.4%), Vrushab M (94%), Abdul Mauz (93%), Nidhi (92.8%), Sinchana (92.2%), Syeda Ayeza (92.2%), Tharun (92%) and Nisarga (91.8%).

Presidency University hosts its annual tech fest

BENGALURU: Presidency University recently hosted its four-day annual technology festival InnovateX 4.0, which saw engagement from over 1,200 teams and 4,500 participants from colleges across the country. The festival was inaugurated by Dr Vijay V Patel, technology director at Integrated Flight Control System, Defence Research and Development Organisation. The campus featured specially curated zones dedicated to robotics, drones and hardware innovation.

Docs say gig workers, elders at higher risk as heat soars

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

WITH heat conditions intensifying in Bengaluru, doctors warn that prolonged exposure to high temperatures, combined with inadequate fluid intake can lead to serious health complications, especially among children, senior citizens and those with existing illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. The doctors are urging the elderly, pregnant women, children and outdoor workers to take precautions against dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Dr M Ravi Kumar, senior consultant in Internal Medicine at Sakra World Hospital said people above 60 and those with chronic illnesses should avoid stepping out between 11 am and 4 pm, as extreme heat can trigger heat exhaustion and heat stroke. "The body of children and elderly people may not be able to cope with rising temperatures quickly. It is better to stay indoors as much as possible," he said. Stressing that hydration should not be limited to water alone, he said, "A lot of electrolytes are lost, too. It is important to replace them. Coconut water, buttermilk and lemon juice are good options."

A black-winged stilt quenches its thirst at a lake in Bengaluru on Saturday | KEVIN NASHON

Dr GM Prasad of Aster CMI Hospital said dehydration and upper respiratory congestion are caused by sudden shifts between outdoor heat and cold indoor environments. "Wearing loose-fitting cotton clothes and staying hydrated are the fundamental things everybody must do during summer," he said.

On food habits, Dr Kumar recommended consuming water-rich fruits such as watermelon, cucumber and oranges, while avoiding heavy, high-protein meals during extreme heat. He advised against alcohol and carbonated drinks.

For gig workers, delivery personnel and construction labourers who cannot avoid outdoor work, doctors said frequent hydration and taking frequent breaks in the shade are essential. "Life is more important than delivery targets. If the sun feels unbearable, take rest under shade and cool yourself," Dr Ravi said.

Doctors also warned people to seek immediate medical attention if they experience symptoms such as confusion, dizziness, extreme fatigue, lethargy or body temperature above 104°F, as these may indicate heat stroke.

Awareness drive held against spitting in public

BENGALURU: Volunteers from Beautiful Bharat, UnboxingBlr and Let's Be The Change, along with marshals from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, conducted an awareness campaign against public spitting on Church Street on Saturday. Chief Marshal Officer Colonel (Retd) Rajbir Singh highlighted that spitting in public is a punishable offence. Odette Katrak of Beautiful Bharat recalled the history of the StopIndiaSpitting movement launched at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to public spitting being made punishable. She said unless more people speak up, those who spit will not change their habits. Volunteers marched, sang, danced and interacted with the public as part of the campaign. They said public spitting brings shame to India on the international stage. ENS

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

27th April : Floralia Traditions In ancient Rome, Floralia was a six-day invitation to loosen up and live a little louder. People wore bright colors instead of white, scattered petals, staged playful performances and let pleasure take the lead. The typical Roman rules relaxed, centering joy as the main event. When in Taurus season! And what will happen in your world today if you dare to prioritize your own delight?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Compliments are coming. Just smile and say thanks. Inwardly you may feel very far from your goal, but that's not what matters here. Honor those who notice you and the support will keep coming.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
In your beautiful mind, you'll hold contradictory truths at once. Something can be beautiful and flawed, painful and meaningful. Your mind resists easy sorting, preferring a wider frame where contradictions are allowed to breathe.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
You can be honest and direct, and no one is the least bit withholding or offended. In fact, they hardly notice. They'll tell you what you want to know before they even have time to give it a second thought. It's because you're breezy. Your energy feels light and safe.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
You ask questions that don't have tidy answers, so they don't end the conversation; they open it. Curiosity is a kind of lantern you carry, illuminating corners, giving you the confidence to continue with a little more information in every step.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
It will be so much easier to wrap up unfinished business when you involve others. With a partner or group, you'll make quick work of it and have a little fun, too. And if there's music involved, it's practically a party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Your talent for lifting, supporting and teaching comes back into play today. Even when you're in a position to correct someone or deliver less-than-pleasant news, you'll do it with a light touch and a positive spin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You return to ideas over time and find they've changed because you have. The same thought meets a different version of you and reveals something new. Intelligence is highlighted in your relationship with thinking, not a single insight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Each age group has its own kind of fun, but there are some kinds of fun that are universal, and today's delights will bring together people of various generations for shared amusement and learning, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Sometimes placing your trust in the other person is the simplest, easiest thing to do. Today, there are items of small stakes on the table. It will save time to skip the analysis. There's generosity in that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You do believe that hard work brings success. It's part of how you see yourself. Disciplined, dedicated and even, in some ways, relentless. Now someone you respect is telling you to work less, but more strategically, and they're not wrong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Being happy seems to be the one duty you can't quite get around to. But can it really keep waiting like this? What if it gets tired of waiting and wanders off? Time to put it further up on the list. How about the top spot?

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You'll be offered the conventional wisdom for today's dilemma, and you can politely ignore it, because it doesn't apply. Your situation is unique and the solution, which will come to you in a moment of inspiration, will be just as original.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

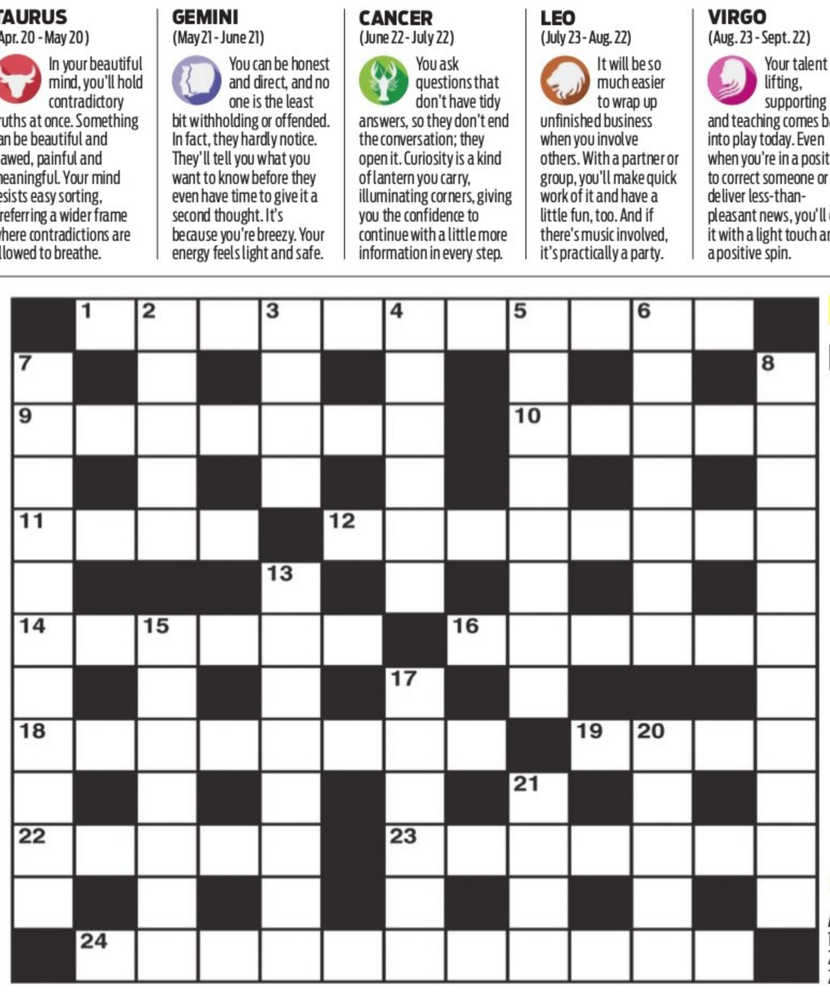
2		9	7	6		3	5	
		6	2	3			4	
	4		5				2	
6						9	1	
1			8		6			4
	7	2						8
	2				7		8	
	1			8	3	4		
	6	4		2	5	1		3

1	8	3	9	4	2	5	7	6
4	9	5	7	6	8	3	2	1
6	2	7	3	5	1	9	8	4
5	4	8	6	2	7	1	3	9
7	1	9	4	8	3	2	6	5
3	6	2	1	9	5	8	4	7
8	5	4	2	7	9	6	1	3
2	3	6	5	1	4	7	9	8
9	7	1	8	3	6	4	5	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Sphere of the occult (7,4)
9 Multiply without going forth (7)
10 Managed for example to turn round the stove (5)
11 Fuel container in military vehicle (4)
12 Don't give up in attempt to get a win (3,5)
14 Pot is upset by relatives. Get a cloth (6)
16 A poem's positive points (6)
18 Boring unusual rites have nothing on me (8)
19 Passage for one from Oslo (4)
22 A giant among stars (5)
23 His is a searching examination by all accounts (7)
24 When it's too humid to hunt? (5,6)

DOWN

2 Steal in and get the bird (5)
3 Spring is something one may associate with flowers (4)
4 They're cold-blooded and they're calculating (6)
5 Cheap items don't allow profits (8)
6 Neckline that may bring out a whistle (7)
7 Difference achieved by best exam candidates (11)
8 Where people may drive after the service (6,5)
13 Gives no answer in debate? (8)
15 Not wholly biased (7)
17 Black marks for slanderous attacks (6)
20 Top in garden party presentation (5)
21 It is thought to be almost perfect (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Silent, 4 Shamrock, 9 Uncurl, 10 Gardenia, 12 Lots, 13 Party, 14 Etna, 17 Agony columns, 20 Bathing belle, 23 Okay, 24 Using, 25 Stye, 28 Radiator, 29 Desist, 30 Landlady, 31 Archer.

Down: 1 Skullcap, 2 Location, 3 Norm, 5 Heartburning, 6 Made, 7 Ornate, 8 Koalas, 11 Man of his word, 15 By-law, 16 Snobs, 18 Flatfish, 19 Selector, 21 Corral, 22 Pardon, 26 Yawl, 27 Gear.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TRCPE
IAKHK
LNJEGI
CELYGA

Whoa! You're supposed to be happy to see your lost dog again.
She's nine, and she's tired. Let's call it a day.
I miss my dog!
WHEN THE CHILD STAR HAD A MELTDOWN DURING FILMING, SHE WAS JUST ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ENVOY CRAWL SPRUNG INVERT
Answer: He sold all his possessions and planned to set out for the — GREAT "UN-OWN"

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Kenya's Sawe enters history books

Sabastian Sawe of Kenya has become the first person to break the fabled 2-hour barrier in the marathon. In a huge moment in sports history, Sawe smashed the men's world record by 65 seconds in winning the London Marathon in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 30 seconds on Sunday. The second-place finisher, Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia, also dipped under 2 hours by crossing the line in 1:59:41 |P13

Gunman opens fire at DC gala attended by Trump

Suspect stopped just outside ballroom where POTUS was seated

AGENCIES @ Washington

A man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby of a hotel in Washington where US President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance were attending the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner on Saturday night.

Reports said the gunman was confronted and stopped just outside the ballroom of the hotel where the president and other senior government officials had gathered.

Investigators said they believe the gunman, identified as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen from Los Angeles, planned to target Trump.

Video posted online showed the suspect running past security barricades as Secret Service agents ran toward him. One officer was shot in a bullet-resistant vest but was recovering, officials said. The gunman was tackled to the ground and was not injured.

The security breach occurred after the welcoming speech and during dinner, before Trump was due to speak. Vice President J D Vance was removed from the room first, while agents initially covered Trump in place before escorting him and first lady Melania Trump from the room. They were held for some time in a secure presidential suite at the hotel before returning to the White House.

According to acting US Attorney General Todd Blanche the suspect was staying at the Washington Hilton hotel where the black-tie dinner was held on Saturday evening.

As per reports, he is a teacher, who donated to Kamala Harris's presidential campaign. His motive was not clear.

Trump said the suspect had written a anti-Christian manifesto. "The guy is a sick guy," he told *Fox News*. "When you read his manifesto, he hates Christians." Trump said the suspect's family had reported him to the police ahead of the event.

Questions swirled regarding the security at the reception and how a gun was brought into the hotel. Attendees pointed out while there was a magnetometer placed outside the ballroom, there was no security screening at the entrance to the hotel itself. P10

Secret service agents evacuate US President Donald Trump from the venue of an event after gunshots were fired; (inset) Trump speaks at the White House later on | AP

I heard a noise and sort of thought it was a tray going down. It was a pretty loud noise, and it was from quite far away. He hadn't reached the area at all. They really got him — Donald Trump

Relieved to learn Trump and Vance are safe: Modi

Reacting to the shooting incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was relieved that US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump and Vice President J D Vance are safe and unharmed. Violence has no place in a democracy, he added

EXPRESS READ

Eminent photographer Raghu Rai dies at 83

NEW DELHI: Raghu Rai, one of India's best-known photographers, died at a private hospital here in the early hours of Sunday. He was 83. "Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer two years ago but he was cured. Then it spread to the stomach," said Nitin Rai. P9

GBA keen on giving more impetus to highrises

BENGALURU: With the urban development department batting for easing the building height restrictions around the airports in Bengaluru, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is keen on encouraging the construction of high-rise buildings. P2

Student clash leads to dacoity, 6 arrested

BENGALURU: A dispute between two groups of students in Bengaluru took a serious turn after one of them allegedly called five of his associates from Tamil Nadu and assaulted six students from Kerala. P5

Iran's terms better: US; Araghchi back in Pak

AGENCIES @ Washington / Islamabad

THERE were hopes on Sunday that the second round of talks between Iran and the US could take place soon, after President Donald Trump said Iran has sent a "better proposal" and the Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi returned to Pakistan briefly for further talks with the Pakistani leadership.

Trump proposed the US and Iranian officials can talk by phone for a peace solution to the conflict. Trump told *Fox News Channel* that he made the decision rather than send a delegation on a 17-hour flight.

"They gave us a paper that should have been better. And interestingly, immediately, when I cancelled it, within 10 minutes, we got a new paper that was much better," Trump said.

In a sign that indirect efforts were ongoing, the ISNA news agency reported that Iran had transmitted "written messages" to the Americans via Pakistan that were "about some of the red lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz".

DAY 58 WAR WATCH

Meanwhile, a day after he left Islamabad without meeting the US delegation, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi returned to Pakistan on Sunday and met Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Geo News, quoting sources, reported that Araghchi left for Moscow after the brief visit. The Iranian leader arrived at Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi after completing a day-long visit to Oman, the Dawn reported, quoting sources. Araghchi was to convey "Iran's positions and views on the framework of any understanding to completely end the war", Geo TV reported. P11

PM lauds state monastery for eco-initiative

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday applauded the Karma Kargyue Monastery, run by Guru Karma Samtenlingpa Rinpoche in Bylakuppe, for its remarkable conservation efforts. Speaking in Mann Ki Baat, his monthly radio programme, Modi highlighted how Buddhist traditions inspire a deep connection with nature and underscored ongoing efforts across India to promote environmental conservation.

The New Indian Express had highlighted this project in a report published in its April 12 Sunday Brightside column.

Modi said the monastery, situated within the Tibetan Refugee Camp in Mysuru district, is a living forest spread over 100 acres. He specifically mentioned the monastery's initiative of planting over 700 species of native trees.

Swing factors ahead of crucial phase-2 polls in Bengal

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE calculations may all come down to whether the talk of a 5-6% "Hindu swing" is fully borne out, even if that may not necessarily be the correct political designation for those looking for a change in West Bengal. With the state careening towards the second and final phase of voting in the remaining 142 of 294 assembly seats on Wednesday, the signs are certainly not those of unquestioned status quo. But how much mobility will be there in set voting patterns?

Polarisation has created tight consolidation at the core but also shakiness at the edges, with even TMC supporters not immune to doubt and restlessness.

Debashis Ghosh, a milk seller, said: "I have been voting for Mamata Didi since 2011 but this time, I may not." Ghosh participated in PM Narendra Modi's Sunday roadshow.

The BJP's campaign, led by Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, preaches to the choir with its strong anti-immigrant line, and with the debate raised to fever pitch, it may be winning some new converts. Not all of it is on account of the politics of religion. Plain old anti-incumbency and the desire for change may be enough to explain it.

For TMC supremo and CM Mamata Banerjee, the crucial part is whether there is any parallel thinning of her minority vote bank, estimated at around 30%.

Neither the Hindu vote nor the Muslim bloc is a monolith, with competitive voting restricted to certain areas and vote blocs. P10

OM SHREE GURUBASAVALINGAYA NAMAHA

HIREMATH SAMSTHAN VIDYAPEETH TRUST(R), BHALKI

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JEE MAINS RESULT - 2026

Result Abstract in Percentile

99 AND ABOVE 14	98 AND ABOVE 24	97 AND ABOVE 39	96 AND ABOVE 53	95 AND ABOVE 81	90 AND ABOVE 200

ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN | JEE MAIN + ADVANCED AND NEET REAPEATERS

BSY Abhimanotsava, a programme convened to commemorate the 50-year political odyssey of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa will be held in Chitradurga on May 9. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the event

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

'S.I.R. IS A PURIFICATION EXERCISE OF THE POLL ROLL'

EXPRESS Dialogues

VOTERS' list is the backbone of democracy. A clean, legitimate roll ensures transparent elections. The credibility of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across India has come under severe strain with opposition parties questioning the Election Commission's processes, alleging that millions of citizens have been denied their right to vote. In a detailed dialogue with *The New Indian Express*, **V Anbukkumar**, Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, brings clarity to several critical questions related to the SIR.

Excerpts

There is a lot of debate around Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Can you explain what SIR is?
There are two types of revisions that happen in the electoral roll -- Special Summary Revision (SSR) which happens every year, but is not an intensive revision. It means we don't review each and every name. Voters who would want to add/delete their names can get it done by filling Forms 6, 7 or 8. But the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) doesn't happen every year and is meant to verify each and every voter's name on the electoral roll. SIR happens when the Election Commission of India (ECI) announces it has to be conducted. SIR has happened many times in India. It happened in 2002-2004. Many people may not know this detail, it is happening for the ninth time in India.

What is the status of the SIR in Karnataka?
Presently, SIR is not declared for Karnataka. We are only doing the preparatory exercise, which is called mapping, to identify voters whose names were present in the 2002 SIR and continue them in the 2025 electoral rolls. We are also adding names of people. Booth Level Officers (BLO) are checking details of those who were present in the 2002 electoral rolls. So far, we have mapped over 84 per cent of the voter population in Karnataka.

Have any anomalies been found during the mapping process?
We will come to know about the anomalies only after the SIR starts. We have completed the preparatory exercises. The ongoing Census 2027 exercise has slightly delayed the mapping. It will pick up once census work is over.

Why has SIR become controversial?
We have four anomalies in the voters' list which need to be addressed. It is called ASDD voters -- Absentee, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate voters. Too many changes are happening in society, many marriages take place. Every day, employment is generated, as a result of which thousands of people shift from one place to another. In case of death, people may not give an application to delete the name of the deceased from the voters' list. At the same time, the Representation of People Act (RP Act) doesn't give powers to the ECI to add/delete a name from the list. This authority rests with the voter. Apart from ASDD, there might be spelling mistakes in name, address and other issues. The SIR is aimed at purifying the electoral roll and not removing anybody's name from the voter's list. In the process, a duplicate voter may retain only one place where he or she can vote.

Whose role is it to communicate to ECI and get deceased voters deleted from electoral rolls?
Death certificates are issued by the authorities. So far, we have not integrated the process of directly deleting names because it needs a detailed technical process and amendments in the Act. Therefore, we expect the kin, either spouse or kids, to submit Form-7 for deletion of name. The BLO can also tell family members to submit the form for deletion.

Can you explain the SIR process?
From the day it is declared, everybody whose name is on the electoral roll will get two sets of enumeration forms. One filled-up form will be handed back to the BLO and the other filled-up form will be retained by the voter as proof. The form kept by the voter will be attested by the BLO. The moment I (election officials) receive the form, your name will be in the draft rolls.

Ideally, how frequently should the SIR be done?
It should ideally be done at frequent intervals. It makes the job easier for everybody. Not just in case of deaths, but if people are shifting. Many people migrate for employment reasons, business, to purchase property or sentimentally.

What are the main challenges before the Election Commission?
To keep a pure roll, there are two important things -- ensure voters are Indian and 18 years of age. Verifying whether the voter is Indian is the most important thing. That is where the SIR and 2002 electoral roll came in. In case those whose names were not in the 2002 electoral roll, the family members' details are used for verification.

Will Aadhaar not help in identity verification?
Aadhaar is only a proof of identity, as per Supreme Court orders.

Can the process be digitized to avoid errors?
The exercise is also digitized. Once the SIR form is signed and handed over, it is digitized and stored in our database. The original form is also bound and saved. This ensures that later, if forms are submitted in two places, the applicant can be prosecuted. The form mandates the voter to sign the document, which states that he/she is fully aware of the consequences. Digitization also helps retrieve old data.

How does ECI deal with similar demographics?
We have demographic entries and photograph similar entries data. Demographic entries include name, age, gender, address and relationship -- husband, wife or father. Recently, we came across a case of 14 similar names. The husband's name is Manjunath and wife's name is Lakshmi. Verifying the probability of 5 crore voters, there could be 14 names which are similar. But photos are different. We cross-checked with the BLOs and they verified that all voters were different.

Does the ECI have enough manpower to verify every single case?
Yes. In Karnataka, we have 59,050 BLOs, with one supervisor for every 10 BLOs. In every assembly constituency, we have an electoral registration officer and assistant electoral registration officer, besides tahsildars, district commissioners, district magistrates and others. If an error is flagged and it comes to us, it is verified. Without verification, the electoral roll cannot be touched.

How is SIR different from summary revision?
In summary revision, we are ready to do the revision, provided you are ready to give the application. If you want your name to be added or shifted, we will do it. In summary revision, we are prepared and waiting for applications that need to come from people. But in case of intensive summary revision, we print the forms and approach people, we collect the forms and update data in the system. We then update the draft rolls and people can place their objections, if any, and the final roll will be prepared.

Are political parties involved in electoral revision and SIR?
Political parties are involved in the entire process. All communication and directions are issued in writing. No oral communication or directions are issued by the ECI. For SIR, we have also printed booklets of electoral rolls in Karnataka. Copies of these are shared with political parties, BLOs, district magistrates and everybody else concerned. It is also on the website. Every process is documented.

Can cases be filed against persons having more than one vote?
It is illegal to have more than one vote. According to the Representation of Peoples Act, an FIR can be registered against individuals possessing more than one vote.

Will the voting percentage increase after the SIR exercise?
Yes, definitely. The total voters will not include dead voters, those who have shifted to other locations and others. The probability of voting percentage increasing is high (after SIR), and that is what we have seen in neighbouring states.

Can you tell us about the SIR mapping exercise? And how has support been for SIR from political parties?
In Karnataka, we have held two rounds of meetings with political parties. For every booth, parties can appoint a booth-level agent, and they can take part in meetings held by our BLOs. We are getting enough cooperation from political parties and have no problem. They are supporting the exercise, and after SIR notification, there will be more involvement. Simultaneously, we want to go for voter-assisted booths also, and want to establish one booth in every panchayat, and one or two booths at the ward level. Those who need any help can reach out to the booths. Further, the ECINET app is very popular, where voters can book a call with a BLO. In many districts, mapping has already crossed 90 per cent. We are trying to carry out the SIR exercise without causing inconvenience to anyone, and trying to achieve over 98 per cent mapping for Karnataka.

Can EVMs be hacked as there is a lot of hue and cry about hacking and transparency?
EVMs cannot be hacked. They are tamper-proof. It has been explained multiple times, and even the SC has said it. In every activity of the Election Commission, political parties are involved. Right from publishing the draft roll to the voting process, everything is recorded, and political parties are involved.

What happens to all the items seized during elections?
The ECI does not keep anything. The departments concerned handle the items as per law. Items are disposed of as per court orders.

What about a person staying in an area bordering two states? How does the system handle it, is it on a national scale?
The system will identify demographically similar entries. The system is on a national level and grids are very strong, right down to the district level.

Where do you think Karnataka stands in terms of voting literacy?
It is one of the best states in this regard. It is a violence-free state. Political parties give support during elections. We see healthy voter enrolment in colleges, and we try to reach as many students turning 18 as possible.

Even though it is technically possible to introduce biometric-based voting, which would make voting a lot easier, why is it not done?
Technology is always costly. You need to upgrade and maintain instruments. There are some technical issues. But that day will definitely come.

Heading into elections, what do you want to tell the people?
I appeal, the moment you turn 18, enrol yourself as a voter. Give us any suggestions you have. We are trying our best to see that the SIR exercises goes well, without any inconvenience to eligible voters of Karnataka. I also urge everyone to download the ECINET app; it has multiple features including booking a call with your BLO.

WAR OF WORDS

Govt hiding health updates of Sudhakar to misuse his thumb impression: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday alleged that the State Government was concealing updates about the health of hospitalised minister D Sudhakar.

Speaking to reporters in Chitradurga, Kumaraswamy asked whether Sudhakar's health issue was being deliberately hidden to secure the "thumb impression" on "certain crucial papers".

"We have seen the history behind such incidents. There are people who have expertise in misusing events of this kind for their own ends," Kumaraswamy, a former CM, added.

Kumaraswamy said that he does not want to engage further on the issue as the minister was battling for his life. "I do not want to dwell on these matters. However, the question that continues to linger with me is: why is there a delay in sharing health updates? Sudhakar is battling for his health in the hospital, and the JDS will not engage further on this issue. We want to know more about the minister's condition," Kumaraswamy said.

'Siddu remembers OBCs only when his chair shakes'

On the Congress holding an AHINDA convention in Hubballi, Kumaraswamy said CM Siddaramaiah and his colleagues recognise the community only when the CM's chair "shakes."

"When AHINDA and minorities say that the Congress government is in power because of their support, what kind of convention are they organising?" he criticised.

He also alleged that through money power, any number of people can be mobilised, and that this is not a matter of significance.

Kumaraswamy further criticised the State Election Commission, stating that it had informed the court it lacked adequate staff and funds to conduct the Greater Bengaluru Authority elections. He alleged that the statement was being issued because the state Government was using the Election Commission, and that Congress, knowing it would be swept out in the GBA polls, was attempting to salvage its image.

On former CM BS Yediyurappa's Abhimanotsava programme commemorating the former Chief Minister's 50 years in politics on May 9, Kumaraswamy said he had not received any invitation yet, and that he would decide if one arrives.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy at the consecration ceremony of Sri Adishakti Kalaghatta Devi Temple in Soravanahalli of Tumakuru district on Sunday | PIC: 'X'

D SUDHAKAR STABLE, MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR LUNG TRANSPLANT

BENGALURU: Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar may be considered for a lung transplant if his lungs do not show significant improvement, doctors treating him have said. Sudhakar, who developed a severe lung infection, is currently undergoing intensive treatment at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital in Electronics City and remains on full life support to assist his vital organ functions. According to the hospital, he was shifted from Manipal Hospital on April 20 on Extra Corporeal Life Support (ECLS) for advanced care. Doctors said his condition is stable on life support and is being closely monitored by a specialised multidisciplinary team round the clock. The hospital said the next course of treatment will depend on how his lungs respond in the coming days.

Whatever has to happen will happen: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister **DK Shivakumar**, who returned to Bengaluru after completing his three-day visit to Delhi, exuded confidence that the Congress high command would take a call on the leadership issue in the state. "Whatever has to happen will happen. From now on, I will not speak to the media on political matters. When the time comes, it will be known on its own", he told reporters.

On his Delhi visit, along with his younger brother and former MP D K Suresh, in which they held marathon talks with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar— indirectly referring to the alleged tussle with CM Siddaramaiah for the top post— clarified that there is no problem between them and any decision will be taken by the party high command.

"Our party will do what needs to be done at the right time. We have faith in our party. They know what needs to be done," he replied to a question on Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, insisting that the high command clear the air over the confusion over the change in leadership. "You (media) may be confused about this. I will never discuss this. Both the CM and I have said that whenever the high command tells, we will follow," he said.

On his birthday celebrations

Shivakumar, who will celebrate his birthday on May 15, said that he wishes it to be a low-key affair. "No one should put up flex boards or banners on my birthday. If they do, I will instruct the municipal body to take action against them. If necessary, paid advertisements can be given. Flex boards should not be put up on roads. This is my instruction to everyone. I have already directed the authorities to impose hefty fines for unauthorised flex boards on roads," he warned.

On former CM BS Yediyurappa's felicitation event, Shivakumar said, "He has to bid farewell to politics, doesn't he? They are organising the event as a farewell to him and to celebrate his achievements."

On JDS advocate AP Ranganath's statement that they would file a contempt motion if local body elections are not held, he said, "Let them do it, who is stopping them? Did we ever say we won't hold elections? We are ready to conduct corporation and local body elections."

On the BJP's criticism regarding internal reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Shivakumar hit back, saying that the saffron party was unable to do anything when in power. "We have acted according to the promise we made. Even when it was 17% earlier, we did it correctly. There was a question of who gets priority first among the right and left factions (when there is only one or two vacancies for SCs). A solution has been worked out. Whether it is the right, the left, Lambani, or Bovi, our government has worked to deliver justice to everyone. We have resolved a problem that existed for 30–40 years. We are giving justice to everyone, and we must move forward together," he elaborated.

LEADERSHIP ROW

Raj invites K'taka to partner in agritech revolution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RAJASTHAN CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday invited investors from Karnataka to partner in the state's agricultural transformation, positioning Rajasthan as an emerging hub for agritech innovation and investment at an investors meet held in Bengaluru, in the run up to the upcoming Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2026.

The roadshow, organised by the Rajasthan Agriculture Department in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Rajasthan Foundation, saw participation from stakeholders across agriculture, agritech, industry and investment sectors. Addressing farmers, investors and policymakers, Sharma said Rajasthan was moving towards building a strong agritech-driven economy by integrating traditional farming strengths with modern technology and creating an investor-friendly ecosystem.

He said that of the Rs 35 lakh crore MoUs signed during the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024, investments worth Rs 9 lakh crore had already been grounded, signalling strong investor confidence. Sharma said the two states shared a long-standing relationship built on innovation and progress, and could work together to strengthen farmers through advanced technologies and collaborative growth.

Rajasthan Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena said the state was strengthening its agritech ecosystem through policy support, infrastructure development and innovation, creating fresh opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs.

The event also featured discussions on agriculture, agritech and investment partnerships, along with a presentation on GRAM 2026, which is scheduled to be held in Jaipur from May 23 to 25.

Manju Rajpal, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Rajasthan; Manisha Arora, Commissioner, Rajasthan Foundation; Naresh Kumar Goyal, Commissioner, Agriculture and Horticulture; along with other stakeholders were present in the event.

Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma greets the gathering at the Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2026 roadshow in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj supported Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and warned that any attempt to remove him from office would spark a 'revolution' in the state. "Doesn't the chief minister's post deserve respect? Who else is there apart from Siddaramaiah to lead? He should remain so till 2028," he said

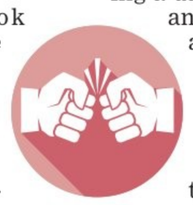
RIVALRY AT COLLEGE

6 arrested after student clash leads to dacoity

Student from TN, seeking revenge against Kerala students, took help from associates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A dispute between two groups of students took a serious turn after a 22-year-old student allegedly called five of his associates from Tamil Nadu and assaulted six students from Kerala. The accused also threatened them with a knife and later robbed them of cash, mobile phones, laptops, and a two-wheeler, all worth Rs 3 lakh.



The incident took place at a rented house in Pavamana Nagar, in the Konanakunte police limits, on April 16. The police arrested all the six accused in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

The accused have been identified as Abinesh (22), a diploma student in mechanical engineering at a private college in the city; Kalaivendhan (20); Vimal Raj (24); Kumaran; Prem Kumar (23); and Naveen Kumar -- all from Mayiladuthurai district in Tamil Nadu. They work in different fields in the private sector, except Abinesh. None of them had any prior criminal records.

The police said that a student from Kerala, studying at a private college and staying at Pavamana Nagar on Kembathalli Main Road, filed a complaint on April 18 that he stays with his six other friends. Around 10.30 pm on April 17, six persons unlawfully entered their house, assaulted them, threatened them with a knife, causing bleeding injuries and robbed them.

The accused allegedly got the victims transfer Rs 10,000 through UPI and fled with four mobile phones, two laptops and a two-wheeler. After registering a dacoity case, the police analysed CCTV footage and other technical evidence, leading to the arrest of the six on April 21.

They confessed to their involvement in the crime during the interrogation, the police said. The preliminary investigation revealed that the attack and robbery were linked to a clash between students from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The prime accused, Abinesh, had called his associates to take revenge against the victims.

Police have seized Rs 10,000 cash, four mobile phones, two laptops and two two-wheelers, including the complainant's stolen vehicle and another used in the crime.The accused were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

BE THE CHANGE

Volunteers clean and paint the underpass towards Jayamahal on Millers Road near Cantonment Railway Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Biker dies after crashing into median

BENGALURU: A 20-year-old man died after he lost control of his speeding bike and crashed into a road median near NTTF Junction, in Peenya traffic police limits on Saturday night. His pillion rider was injured. The deceased, Sandeep, was from Raichur. He worked at an iron factory in Bengaluru and lived in Rajagopalnagar. The accident occurred while he and his friend were going towards Dasarahalli. The duo sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where Sandeep succumbed to severe head injuries. His friend is out of danger and is undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigation revealed that speeding and negligence caused the accident. ENS

Govt hospital patients narrate tales of care, neglect, queues and bribery

DARSHAN DADADAPURA
@ Bengaluru

IN the wake of allegations of medical negligence at Victoria Hospital, following the death of a 45-year-old patient recently, a visit to some of Bengaluru's major government hospitals revealed a mixed reality, stories of life-saving treatment, long queues, infrastructure gaps and patient dissatisfaction.

At Victoria Hospital, one of the city's oldest government hospitals, patients from across Karnataka continue to depend on its specialised care. Though it has saved many lives, some cases have also come under scrutiny due to systemic gaps and disparities.

Vanitha (32), from Vijayanagar in West Bengaluru, admitted for childbirth, alleged that she was kept longer than necessary after a Caesarean section, and felt neglected. "Some doctors are good, but some treated us poorly because we could not pay," she said, highlighting that bribery still persists in government hospitals in Karnataka.

Naveen (28), who was being treated for a fractured hand,

said patients were often unclear about documentation requirements and had to buy medicines and get tests done outside. "We stand in queues and only later realise we need Aadhaar, ration card, Ayushman card. Clear information would help," he said. Patients added that the number of doctors to handle high patient footfall is inadequate, raising concerns over doctor availability.

For some, the hospital proved life-saving. Ganesh (48), a resident of Hassan who fractured his leg in a bike accident, was initially told at a government hospital in Hassan that his leg might need amputation. But when he came to Victoria Hospital, his leg was saved. "I had lost hope of saving my leg. But doctors here treated me well and saved it. I did not pay anything," he said. But his wife Kalamani complained about long queues every day to collect medicines.

At KC General Hospital, patients largely appreciated the treatment but raised concerns over medicine shortages and poor ward maintenance. Somashekhar (64), from Rajajinagar, who was diagnosed with dengue fever, said he received emergency care at 3.30am. At Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, patients reported good treatment but complained of additional money spent for diagnostics. Manjula (45), from Vasanth Nagar, who underwent treatment after multiple consultations and physiotherapy sessions, shared that treatment is good and her pain has reduced.

Visits across these hospitals showed a common pattern: While government hospitals remain a lifeline for economically weaker patients, by providing access to free surgeries, and medication, challenges such as long waiting time, limited medicine availability, infrastructure issues, bribery, and communication gaps persist.

Syringe saga: NADA tests over 100 athletes at Tumakuru nat'l meet

DEVARAJ B HIREHALL @ Tumakuru

THE National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) officials swung into action after suspecting that some athletes could be using performance-enhancement drugs, after some used syringes and needles were found on Friday inside the restroom of Mahatma Gandhi Stadium, where the 24th National Junior (U-20) Athletics Federation Competition 2026 concluded on Sunday. Of over 1,300 competitors from across the country, 100 were subjected to doping tests by NADA officials.

Their blood and urine samples will be sent to WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency)-approved laboratories and the results are expected in 10-15 days. The samples were collected from those who reached the qualifying mark and also others at random. The meet was a qualifying event for next month's Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong and World Athletics U20 championships from August 5-9, at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, United States.

Sources said young athletes would not have taken the substances without the involvement of their parents or coaches.

4 from Karnataka shine

Four athletes from Karnataka hunted for medals on the third and final day of the 24th National Junior U20 Athletics competition in Tumakuru on Sunday. With this, Karnataka achieved the feat of winning five medals in the three-day event. Four of the five medals were won by women. Nagini from Karnataka won the gold in the junior women's 800m race. Nagini, who clocked 2:12.06 seconds, won the gold. Karnataka's Apoorva Anand Nayak won the silver in the women's 400m hurdles, Karnataka's Bhavya CJ won the bronze in the women's javelin throw, and Nikhin C won the bronze in the men's 3000m steeplechase. On Saturday, Nupur Holla won bronze in the women's 100m hurdles. Abhay Singh, representing Reliance who had earlier won gold in the 100m race, also won gold in the 200m race.

HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LTD
Corporate Office: 27 A, Developed Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai – 600032, Branch office : No.50, 4th Floor, Vinay Arcade, K. H. Road, Bengaluru (KA) – 560027
Website:www.hindujaleylandfinance.com, CIN: U65993MH2008PLC384221,

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8 (1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Leyland Finance Ltd (HLF) herein after referred as secured creditor under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 24.12.2025 calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s) namely **Mr. KIRAN KUMAR J., Late Mr. C. JAYARAM, (Co-Borrower), SINCE DECEASED, REPRESENTED BY HIS SON AND LEGAL HEIR MR. KIRAN KUMAR J., AND Late Mr. C. JAYARAM, (Co-Borrower), SINCE DECEASED, REPRESENTED BY ALL HIS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN LEGAL HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS** who have availed loan against mortgage of property vide Loan Account No. **KABNBN03611** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being amount of **Rs.71,46,150.42/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakh Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Fifty and Forty Two Paise Only) as on 24.12.2025** along with future interest and other charges etc till actual payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s), Co-borrower(s), mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **23rd April 2026.**

The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited for an amount as mentioned above along with future interest, legal and incidental expenditure thereof etc till the date of actual payment.

The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khanesumari No. 128/62, Khata No. 135, Situated at Malagalu Grama, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently within the limits of BBMP, Measuring East to West:30 ft. and North to South: 40 ft. and bounded on : East By : Site No. 61, West By : Site No. 63, North By : Site No. 69, South By : Road.

Date : 23rd April, 2026 **HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LTD**
Place : BANGALORE **Authorised Officer**

IN THE COURT OF 69th ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-70)
EX.No. 2262/2024

BETWEEN: Mrs. Anju Bind, Wife of Mr. Mahendra Pratap, age about 41 years, Residing at Flat No.214 C Block, Midtown Rhythm Apartment, R. Naryanapura, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066. Rep by POA Holder, **Mr. Rahul Dinesh Bind ...Decree Holder**

AND: Mr. Narendra Konappareddy and 2 others **....Judgment Debtors**

CAUSE NOTICE TO JUDGEMENT DEBTOR No. 2 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Mrs. Deepu Gopu, Wife of Mr.Narendra Konappareddy, aged about 46 years, R/a No.1501, Prestige Shantiniketan, Hoodi, Bangalore- 560 048.

Whereas, the Decree Holder has filed above petition for the recovery of money against you and other Rs.6,23,579/- with future interest as per the Judgment and Decree in O.S No. 6898/2021 till realization of decree amount, Hence, you are here by warned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **19/06/2026** at **11-00 A.M** in forenoon to show cause against the suit failing where-in the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 24/04/2026

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Koramangala J Block Branch
703, Behind BDA Complex, Koramangala-560034, Bengaluru. Ph: 9449860057, E-mail: cb10456@canarabank.com

(Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property)

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank, Koramangala J Block Branch** of the **Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** on **12.05.2026, 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM**, for recovery of below mentioned amount.

E-AUCTION DATE: 12.05.2026

Borrower(s): (1) Mr. Chandra (Borrower) S/o Anantha Shettigar, Flat No.ALR-B19-202, Alur BDA Layout, Huskur Road, Bangalore, **Residential Address of the Borrower Mr. Chandra** S/o Anantha Shettigar, Door No: 249, Adugodi, Nanjappa Layout, II Main, Bangalore-560030. **(2) Mr Achutha Shettigar. (Guarantor)** S/o Bheema Shettigar, O.24, 16th Main, 7th Cross, Overline Road, Kurubarahalli., J C Nagar, Bangalore-576226.

Total liabilities: Rs. 6,22,211.84 (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Eleven and Paisa Eighty Four Only) as on 22.04.2026 with further interest and charges thereon.

Reserve Price: Rs.10,39,000/-. EMD: Rs.1,03,900/-. Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before: **11.05.2026 before 4.00 pm.**

Description of Property: All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing flat no: ALR B19 202, consisting of 1 BHK which is formed by the BDA in the layout ALUR at Huskur Road, Bangalore. East : By B19/203, West: Road, North : BLOCK No:18, South : By B 19 / 201.

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank. For further details contact Authorised Officer **Govind Solanki RO East, Mobile No.7676721177 or Canara Bank, E-mail: cb10456@canarabank.com by hand or by email or the service provider M/S PSB Alliance (Baanknet) https://baanknet.com, E-mail id: support.baanknet@psballiance.com,** Support & Backup Office: Support Team, **Contact No.8291220220** may be contacted during office hours on any working day.

Date : 25.04.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

equitas
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
Registered Office : No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

SR NO	Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Possession taken date
1	**BRANCH - Peenya Loan No. - SEPEEYA0263619 BORROWER - Mr/Mrs Shashikala Co-Borrower - Mr/Mrs Komala S**	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Bearing Site No.42 Formed In Sy No.3, Situated At Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwathpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presetly Comes Under The Limits Of Bbmp Ward No.12, Bangalore.,North By : Road,South By : Others Property,East By : House Of Puttagangamma,West By : Road.	**20.12.2025 & 765416**	**22.04.2026**

Date - 27.04.2026, Place - Bangalore **Authorized officer , Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd**

Can Fin Homes Ltd
586, 2nd Floor, 80ft Rd, 8th Block, Near Police Station, Opp. Bethany School Koramangala, Bangalore-560095
koramangala@canfinhomes.com
Tel: 080-41112879, Mob:7625079131/7625079457
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699
KORAMANGALA BRANCH

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 9 (1)]

E-SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Koramangala Branch, will be sold by holding E-Auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **19/05/2026**, for recovery of **Rs.60,68,432/-** (Rupees Sixty Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty two Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Srinivasachar N and Mr. Rajanna S and Mr. Prakash S**(Borrowers) **and Mr. N C Narendra Babu** (Guarantor), as on 25/04/2026, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 35,00,000/-** (RupeesThirty Five LakhsOnly) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,50,000/-** (RupeesThree Lakh Fifty ThousandOnly)

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing of Site No.1, Sy.No.1, Manchanabele Village, Madabal Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagar District. Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring 2400 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the East by: Road, West by : Gomala, North by : Anjanappa's House and South by : Gomala

Known Encumbrances : NIL

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (www.canfinhomes.com) please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com SearchAuction.aspx
Link for participating in e-auction : www.auctionbazaar.com

Place: Bangalore
Date: 25.04.2026
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

QuoteExpress

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE

NELSON MANDELA

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD.)
Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, inrespect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Symbolic Possession Date
1	**Branch: Channapatna SECNPTN0284597 Borrower: Mr/Mrs Srinivas; Co-Borrower: Mr/Mrs Chandra; Mr/Mrs Puttalingamma**	All The Peace And Parcel Of The Immovable Schedule Property No 152900103100600709 Katha No.192/178 ,Situated At Lalagahatta Village, Vandaraguppe Gram Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District. Measuring East To West 10.6680 Mtr (35 Feet), North To South 26.8224 Mtr (88 Feet), Total Extent 286.14 Sqmtr (3080 Sqft) And House Builtup Area Of 85.47 Sqmtr Exists..North By : Road,South By : Road,East By : House Of Puttaswamy,West By : House Of Venkataramanaiah.	**27.01.2026 793232/-**	**22.04.2026**
2	**Branch: Channapatna SECNPTN0386829/ 200002058798 Borrower: Vijaya Co-Borrower: Punith Kumar C R**	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Schedule Property No.152900103000420348 Katha No.16/16A Situated At Patlu Village, Thittamaranahalli Grama Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara. Measuring East To West 8.5344 Mtr (28 Feet), North To South 13.716 Mtr (45 Feet), Total Extent 117.05 Sqmtr (1260 Sqft) And House Builtup Area 117.05 Sq mtr. (North By) Remaining Property (South By) Road (East By) House Of Kariyappa (West By) House Of Shivanna	**31.01.2026 1562952/-**	**22.04.2026**
3	**Branch: Channapatna SECNPTN0457069/ 200002130960 Borrower: Mallikarjuna Co-Borrower: Pranesha; G B Thayamma; Paramesh; Bindu**	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Schedule Property No.152900200201000024, Katha No. 31/21, Situated At Goravinapura Village, Kabbalu Grmapanchayath, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar. Measuring East To West 12.192 Mtr (40 Feet), North To South 25.908 Mtr (85 Feet), Total Extent 315.87 Sqmtr (3400 Sqft) And House Builtup Area Of 236.90 Exists.. (North By)Rajabeedi (South By)House Of Muddegowda (East By)Halaguru Channapattana Road (West By)House Of Kullegowda	**31.01.2026 3757407/-**	**22.04.2026**

Date: 27.04.2026, Place: Bangalore **Authorized Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.**

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಕೇನರಾ बैंक Canara Bank
SHIVAMOGGA DURGIGUDI (11915) BRANCH
DURGIGUDI BRANCH, SHIVAMOGGA 577201
H.O.: BANGALORE

DEMAND NOTICE
SECTION 13(2) TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

REF: CB11915/SARFAESI/LAXMIKANTHA **DATE: 23/04/2026**

To, 1) Sri Laxmikantha B (Borrower), S/O B Venkanna Bhat, No 99 Sourabha 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar Shivamogga, Shivamogga 577205. **2) Smt Rukmini K T (Co-Borrower/Guarantor),** C/O Thamanna Bhat No 629, Sri Chaitanya Th Main 11th CRS, Kumarswamy Layout, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560078.

Dear Sir /Madam,

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

That **Sri Laxmikantha B S/O B Venkanna Bhat And Smt Rukmini K T C/O Thamanna Bhat** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") & **Smt Rukmini K T C/O Thamanna Bhat** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has availed the following loans/credit facilities from our Branch from time to time:

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Liability with Interest As On Date	Rate of Interest
1	164002028175	Canara Mortgage – Term Loan	**Rs. 23,49,062.75**	11.05% + 2.00%
2	19157700000042	Staff Housing Loan	**Rs. 24,16,284.2**	5.50% + 2.00%

The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on **21/04/2026**. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of **Rs. 47,65,346.95 (Rupees Forty Seven lakh Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Forty Six and Paisa Ninety Five only)** with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act. Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post acknowledgement due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets Mortgaged/Hypothecated are enumerated hereunder:

Sl.No.	Immovable	Name of Title Holder
1	All that piece and parcel of the residential property having site no 99, khata No 455/6049 (Old No 6099/6049/6041) measuring 64'6' + 0/2 X 107 + 124.6'/2 ft in totally 3466.875 Sq Ft with 1000 Sq Ft Ground Floor and 1450 1st Floor RCC residential House there on located in Ward No 26, Gopala Nagar Extension, Shivamogga City, within Shivamogga Mahanagara Palike Limit. **Property bounded by:** East: Road, West: Road, North: Road, South: Site No's 95,96,97 and 98. Cersai ID: 400059962997	Sri Laxmikantha B S/O B Venkanna Bhat
2	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No 629, PID No 55/872-629 located in 11th cross, 8th main, Kumaraswamy layout, 2nd stage, EWS Houses, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 5.10 meter and North to South 9.00 meter. **Property bounded by:** East: EWS House No 630, West: EWS House No 628, North: Road, South: Drain. Cersai ID: 400032370815	Sri Laxmikantha B S/O B Venkanna Bhat

Date: 23.04.2026 **Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER**
Place : SHIVAMOGGA **CANARA BANK**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
THE ALL-NEW APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS
Google Play | App Store

The Ballari Health Department has stepped up precautionary measures to prevent the spread of dengue and to create awareness among the public. Authorities have intensified door-to-door visits, larval surveillance, and mosquito control activities across the district

NCB launches 'Op WIPE' to curb online drug sales

Police detect 122 deals involving 62 banned substances; notices sent to online platforms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a major push against the rising threat of online drug trafficking, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has launched Operation WIPE (Web-based Illicit Activities Prevention & Enforcement) to prevent the misuse of digital platforms for the illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs regulated under the NDPS Act.

The operation marks a shift towards proactive enforcement, focusing on monitoring the surface web to detect and remove illegal drug listings before they lead to trafficking. It is supported by intelligence inputs from the International Narcotics Control Board's SNOOP (Scanning Novel Opioids on Online Platforms) programme.

As part of the initiative, the NCB has identified 122 instances involving 62 substances, including widely abused drugs such as clonazepam, diazepam and fentanyl. Of these, 58 substances fall under the NDPS Act, while four are classified as controlled substances.

The agency has issued notices to online platforms, directing them to curb misuse. Following verification, companies such as IndiaMART, TradeIndia and Dial4Trade have removed flagged listings and suspended suspicious vendors.

The initiative builds on the success of Operation MEDMAX conducted in July 2025, during which the NCB dismantled a transnational drug trafficking syndicate operating across Asia, North America, Europe and Australia with the help of foreign agencies. The case originated from the seizure of 3.7 kg of tramadol tablets in India and exposed a sophisticated network exploiting digital platforms.

Investigations revealed that the syndicate operated a call centre in Udupi, Karnataka, to manage global orders through online B2B platforms. Drugs were listed online and supplied without valid documentation, with payments routed through cryptocurrencies, PayPal and other remittance channels, while deliveries were handled by international re-shippers.

The NCB said its technical teams will continue monitoring online platforms using advanced tools and international intelligence inputs to detect emerging threats.

Gunshot fired at woman lawyer's house in Belagavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

Belagavi's legal fraternity is worried after miscreants allegedly opened fire at the residence of advocate Pooja Kakatkar Patil in Bhavani Nagar on Mandoli Road in the city around 2.30 am on April 24.

Patil's 15-year-old daughter Sanskriti Kakatkar, who was studying in a room on the first floor of the house at the time of the incident, alerted the family about the attack. Police said some unknown persons opened fire at the first-floor window of the house and fled. A mark of bullet impact was found on the window glass.

Advocate Patil, who has been practising law since 2008, is specialised in civil disputes as well as family and domestic cases. She said in her complaint to police that the attack may have been motivated by professional or personal rivalry, with an intention to threaten or kill her.

She said that at first they neglected the sound, considering that it could either be the rain or the pet dog. However, when her daughter sent her a picture of the broken window on WhatsApp on the next day, she informed the police and registered a complaint. The FIR has been registered under Section 109(1) and Section 27(1) of the Indian Arms Act against unknown persons. Sub-Inspector Lakkappa Jodatti of the rural police station, along with other officials, visited the spot and initiated the investigation. Advocate Patil has requested police protection.

The incident has triggered concern in Belagavi's legal circles, especially as the attack appears to be a targeted act at the residence of a practicing advocate.

SACRED WEEK

Monks from the Maha Bodhi Society take part in 'Bodhi Saptaha', the Enlightenment Week, as part of the 2,570 Buddha Jayanti celebrations in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

15-year-old electrocuted while plucking coconuts in M'luru

MANGALURU: A 15-year-old boy was electrocuted while plucking coconuts at Mani Gadiyara on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Mohammed Shaheer, who had recently completed his SSLC examinations and was visiting his grandparents in Maani Gadiyara. Shaheer attempted to pluck coconuts using an iron rod. The rod came into contact with a high-tension wire, causing severe burn injuries. He died on the spot.

Kodagu homestay owners flag over 2,000 illegal units

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

HOMESTAY owners in Kodagu have called on the state government to take immediate action against over 2,000 illegal homestays operating in the district. The demand comes in the wake of a sexual assault on a US tourist at a registered homestay in Kutta, which has raised serious concerns about tourist safety.

Speaking to media persons here on Sunday, members of the Kodagu District Homestay Association urged the state government to fill the vacant post of Deputy Director of Tourism Department. Association president Monthi Ganesh said the lack of proper administration has left many tourism operators without guidance and contributed to illegal activities in the sector.

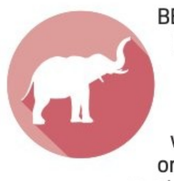
"The district is a major tourist hub, with thousands of homestays and numerous resorts. Yet, the post of Deputy Director has been vacant for several months, which hampers proper regulation," Ganesh said. She emphasised that strict enforcement against illegal homestays is essential, including police action to ensure visitor safety.

Association member K M Karumbaiah revealed that while 2,470 homestays are officially registered, over 2,000 others are operating without authorization. Members also raised concerns about tourists being misled by brokers near bus stands and other public spaces, who direct them to illegal accommodations.

Condemning the recent assault at Devi Villa homestay in Kutta, Ganesh said the facility was registered with the tourism department. She argued that the deputy commissioner could have suspended the license instead of cancelling it outright, given that the case is still under investigation.

Kodagu SP K Bindu Mani convened a meeting with owners of hotels, resorts, homestays, and travel agencies to reinforce safety protocols for tourists. The SP instructed owners to comply with the law and warned that they would be held accountable for any illegal or criminal activity on their premises.

Man trampled to death by elephant near Kanakapura



BENGALURU: A 55-year-old man was killed after a wild elephant attacked him in Cheelandavadi village under the Sangama forest range of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Kanakapura taluk on Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Shivu (55), a resident of Cheelandavadi. According to forest officials, he had gone on foot to purchase groceries when an elephant attacked him from behind and trampled him, killing him on the spot. Forest officials and Sathanur police visited the spot and conducted an inspection. The body was shifted to the Kanakapura taluk government hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile, residents staged a protest, condemning the rising incidents of elephant attacks and expressing anger at the Forest Department.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date &Time for Opening of Tender
South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/ TO/AE/37/ 2026-27 Date: 21.04.2026	Rs.8,73,942/- / Rs.21,900/-	15.05.2026 upto 4:00 PM	18.05.2026 after 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

Office of the Chief engineer (CHW), 8th floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Kaveri (O&M)-2	BWSSB/EE (K-O&M)-2/PB/ 22/2025-26 Date: 21.04.2026 CALL-4	Rs.38,32,267/- / Rs.77,000/-	04.05.2026 upto 4:00 PM	05.05.2026 after 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/348/SSC/2026-27

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited

Door No.294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India. Tel: +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

RFQ No: APMDC/P&C/CAMC IT Hardware/SCM/2026-27, Date: 27.04.2026

APMDC invites Quotations from reputed Agencies for **"Provision of Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for the Existing IT Hardware Infrastructure & Devices at APMDC, Suliyari Coal Project, Madhya Pradesh"**. For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website **(www.apmdc.ap.gov.in)**. The Tender document is available for downloading from APMDC website from **27.04.2026** and the last date for submission of quotation is **18.05.2026**.

Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Managing Director,**
Date: 27.04.2026 **The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited**
DIPR No.5047PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt.24/04/2026

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF CORRIGENDUM-I NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Horizontal Extension of Rendezvous Simulation Lab at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, Electrical, Airconditioning and other allied works)
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/C/C/12/2025-26 Dt. 16/03/2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 224.23 Lakhs
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 17:00 Hrs. on 21.05.2026
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 4,48,460/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

IN THE COURT OF 83RD ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH 84)
COM O.S NO. 856/2025

BETWEEN: M/s. Canara Bank, (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank), Good Shepherd EDN Society Branch, Branch at No. 81, 6th Main, 36th Cross, 5th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041. ...PLAINTIFF

AND

Blue Ridge & Another ....DEFENDANTS

APPLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 (1A) R/W SECTION 151 C.P.C SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

1.M/s. Blue Ridge Networks, No. 3, 1st Floor, 4th Main, 2nd Stage, JC Industrial Estate, Bangalore - 560 078, Rep by its Proprietor Mr. Harisha M. K.

2. Mr. Harisha M. K. about 37 years, No. 48 25 7th Main, 8th Cross, Venkateshpura, Jakkasandra PO, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has instituted the recovery suit against you for a sum of **Rs.7,67,474/-** (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Four Only) is due as on 31.05.2025 together with current and future interest at 11.50% per annum compounded monthly from 01.06.2025, therefore you are hereby summoned to appear before LXXXIII additional City Civil And Sessions Judge at Bangalore (CCH 84) in preson or by a pleader on **22/06/2026 at 11.00 A. M.** to answer the same. Failing which the suit will be disposed of Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court , on 21.04.2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
Commercial Court Unit
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Mr. Chethan Kumar K., Advocate, Office at New No. 16, 1st Floor, Chandrasekaran Road , BEML Layout, 3rd Stage, Rajarajeswhari Nagar, Bangalore - 560 098.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MR. SHAILENDRA A R Loan A/c No. 16063000046 Symbolic Possession Date: 23/04/2026	28/11/2025	Rs. 1500328.00	SCHEDULE "A" (Description of the entire property) : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a portion of the large extent of property bearing No.2, HMT Main Road, Yeshwanthpur, Corporation Division No.1/2, Bangalore -560022, on which multi-storied complex comprising of several Blocks are constructed in the name of "PLATINUM CITY PROJECT" and the land beneath and said 'O' Block measuring from East to West – 78 mtrs. (255.84 ft.). North to South: 76.57 mtrs. (251.15 ft) in all measuring about 5972.46 Sq.Mtrs. (64,254.11 Sq.Ft.) and bounded as follows: East by: 'B' Block of the Platinum City Project, West by: Bharat Fritz Warner Factory, North by: Open space of the Platinum City Project, South by: Open space of the Platinum City Project SCHEDULE "B" : (Undivided interest in Land being conveyed) 140.18 Sq.Ft. undivided share of Land in 'O' Block of the Project known as 'PLATINUM CITY' bearing No.2, HMT Main Road, Yeshwanthpur, Corporation Division No.1/2, Bangalore -560022, (Schedule 'A' Property). SCHEDULE "C" (Apartment herein above referred) : Apartment bearing No.S-730 situated on the Sixth Floor, of II (Second) Phase of 'O' Block of "PLATINUM CITY PROJECT" constructed on the Schedule 'a' property comprising of two bedrooms hall and kitchen with a super built up area of 860 Sq.Feet.
MR. DHANANJAYA K MS. BHARATHI K Loan A/c No. 410400011840 410400011974 Symbolic Possession Date: 23/04/2026	20/01/2025	Rs. 6086210.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : (Entire Property) : All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.426, formed in the Survey Nos.91/2, 99/1, 99/2, 99/3, 101/2, 140, 141, 142, 173, 174, 175, 178, 180, 181, 182, 184, 188, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 207, 208, 210, 211, 217/1B, 217/2, 218/1, 218/2, 219, 220, 223/1, 223/2, 223/3, 224/1, 224/2, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229/1, 230 & 241, situated at Halagevadarahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Khatha No.2650/2586/426/2638, at BEML 5th stage, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 65 Feet, in all measuring 2600 sq. Ft., or 288.88 Sq.yards, together with all the rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Site No.427, West by: Site No.425, North by: Site No.421, South by: Road. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (Description of the undivided interest in the land herein) 350 Sq.ft., undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Three Bed Rooms Apartment bearing Flat No.301, in the third floor, measuring 1400 sq. Feet of super built up area with Vitrified Tiles Flooring, with one covered Car Parking place in the Basement/Stilt Floor, part of multi storied residential apartment known as "MEDINI RESIDENCY" constructed at Schedule 'A' property along with all the rights in the common areas and easements.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.04.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.LC610/EEE/PRO/KLB/AEE(O)/AEE-1/26-27/2949-50 Date: 18.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated a scheme under Section 67 (2)(C) of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the scheme is herewith published in pursuance of Section 67 (2) of the said act, this notification is issued for information of the license holders and any other concerned persons, Particulars of the scheme are as here under.

Name of the Work: 1) Establishing the 2x20MVA, 110/11kV & 1x20MVA 110/33kV sub-station at Kachur village in Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi Dist.

2) Construction of 110kv DC line on DC towers (LILO) from 110kV Sedam-Chincholli-1 line for a distance of 1.475Kms in Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi Dist on PTK basis.

Salient Features: 1) To Maintain reliable and uninterrupted power supply to Muganoor, Kachur & surrounding areas.

2) To improve the tail end voltage and quality reliability of power supply to the Kachur and surrounding areas.

3) To improve voltage profile in the proposed sub-station area.

Approximate Cost: 2703.37 Lakhs.

Area and Survey No's Passing through in Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi Dist.

Sl.No.	Hobli	Village	Sy No's
1	Sedam	Muganoor	35, 37, 40
		Kachur	34, 32, 10, 09

KPTCL, shall have and exercise all powers which the Telegraphs Authorities possess under part (III) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, (13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division, KPTCL, Kalaburagi – within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elecl.),
Projects Division, Prasarana Bhavana, KPTCL,
Sedam Road, Kalaburagi

MAHATRANSCO

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2632/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001510) (4th Call)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Balance work of establishment of 132/33KV Dhanora Sub-station Dist. Jalgaon along with Balance work of Construction of 132kV DCDC LILO line on 132kV SCSC Yawal-Chopda Line (3.1 km) on turnkey basis under Nashik Zone."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **20.04.2026**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology & Research, Bengaluru

(An Autonomous Regd. Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru -560038
Ph: +91-80-25283013, +91-80-24492900
Website: www.kierbengaluru.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KIER invites tenders from eligible bidders for the supply / service of the following items in two bid system through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & date	Subject
1.	KIER-ACCT/11/2025-ACCT-KIER-BLR	Canteen / Diet-Services
2.	KIER-ACCT/7/2025-ACCT-KIER-BLR	Establishment of Orthosis and prosthesis Service Unit along with Customised Footwear Making Unit at KIER.
3.	KIER-ACCT/116/2026-ACCT-KIER-BLR	Establishment of X-Ray Room with DR System on Turnkey Basis.

E.M.D.&Security Deposit : As mentioned in the tender document. Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 27.04.2026 onwards.** Last Date for submission of tenders: **15.05.2026 upto 05.30 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical Bids: **16.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** For further details contact office during office hours. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject/ cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason.

DIPR/CP/JA/368/2026-27 **Sd/- CAO, KIER, Bengaluru.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property from its Owners namely **1. Sri. RAGHUCHANDRA. K,** aged about 36 years, Son of Sri. Kalaiah, **2. Smt. SOWBHAGYA.D. A.,** aged about 29 years, Wife of Sri. Raghuchandra.K. Both residing at No.24, D' Souza Nagar, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085, the said owners has represented that they are the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and apart from him, there are no other person/s having any right, title or interest over the schedule properties.

Any person having any claim, right or interest over the schedule properties may contact or write to the undersigned with documentary proof to substantiate such claims or interest within in 15 days from the date of this publication.

In the absence of any such claim or objection within the stipulated time, it will be construed that there is no one having any claims or objection on the schedule properties and our client will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.82, Khatha No.260/2, Assessment No. 77/2 situated at Kathraguppe Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) assigned the property as Municipal No.82/88, New Municipal No.28 with PID No. 55-513-28, New EPID No. 2608314076, 1st B Cross, 5th Block, Revenue Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru, BBMP Ward NO. 183, (old Ward No.55) together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and measuring East to West: 40 Feet, North to South: 30Feet, admeasuring 1200sqft, bounded on the

East by : Road,
West by : Property No.98
North by : Property No.81
South by : Property No. 83

Together with built up area of 3500 Square feet in the Ground, First, Second and Thid Floors, having R.C.C Roof, Marble Flooring, walls built with brick in cement mortar, Teak, Honne wood used for Doors and windows with all civic amenities provided.

Gopal H B, Advocate
No. 161, DVG Road Basvangudi
Bangalore 560004 M: +91 77601 18263

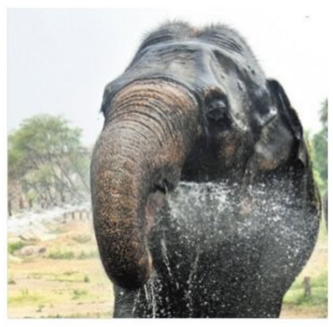
Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Sunday nominated former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin and Prof M Kodandaram to the Legislative Council. Their term will be for a period of six years from the date of issue of notification

Searing Sunday in T'gana, 7 dists sizzle above 44ºC

IMD forecasts similar conditions for 18 districts over next two days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

HOW hot is too hot? In Telangana on Sunday, seven districts answered with temperatures above 44°C, with Jainad leading in the state at 44.5°C. With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting similar heat for 18 districts over the next two days, the heatwave shows no signs of relenting. According to the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPS), another 12 districts recorded temperatures above 43°C and another 13 districts saw highs above 42°C, indicating widespread heat stress across the state.



An elephant enjoys a refreshing shower in Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park on Sunday | VINAY MADAPU

Among the highest temperatures recorded were Jainad (44.5°C) in Adilabad, Beeravelli (44.3°C) in Nirmal, Kammarpally (44.3°C) in Nizamabad, Ibrahimpet (44.3°C) in Nalgonda, Dhanora (44.1°C) in Komaram Bheem Asifabad, and Jaina (44.1°C) in Jagtial district. Vemulawada in Rajanna-Sircilla district recorded 44°C.

Several other regions also witnessed severe heat, including Pitlam (43.9°C) in Kamareddy, Indurthy (43.9°C) in Karimnagar, Kalluru (43.7°C) in Khammam, Garidepalle (43.7°C) in Suryapet, Pothareddipet (43.6°C) in Siddipet and Bheemaram (43.6°C) in Mancherial, along with multiple locations across Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Narayanpet and Nagarkurnool districts.

Meanwhile, the IMD has issued a heatwave alert, forecasting temperatures between 41°C and 44°C across 18 districts over the next two days. The IMD said temperatures crossed 41°C in at least 20 districts on Sunday. It forecast that maximum temperatures will remain between 41°C and 44°C on Monday and Tuesday, before easing slightly to similar levels in about five districts on Wednesday and 12 districts on Thursday. In Hyderabad, temperatures were relatively lower but still above normal. Old Sultan Nagar in Medchal-Malkajgiri district recorded a maximum of 42°C, while other parts of the city ranged between 39.1°C and 41°C.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms, predicting lightning and gusty winds at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Medak and Kamareddy on Tuesday.

Heat claims farmer's life

A 55-year-old farmer, Madineni Babu, died of suspected sunstroke in Jaggaram village of Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Sunday. On Saturday, he went to the field as usual but did not return home. His family found him dead in the chilli field on Sunday morning. They suspect he succumbed to sunstroke amid intense heat.

Hot winds likely in 23 Andhra mandals

VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has warned that on April 27, severe hot winds are likely to affect 23 mandals, while another 26 mandals may experience hot wind conditions. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain urged the public to take adequate precautions against heat, hot winds, and humidity. According to the forecast, severe hot winds are expected in mandals across Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts. Hot wind conditions are also likely in parts of Polavaram, Anakapalli, Kakinada, East Godavari, Eluru, Markapuram and Kadapa districts. On Sunday, extreme temperatures were recorded at several places. Markapuram in Prakasam district registered 44.7ºC, Allagadda in Nandyal 44.1ºC, Vontimitta in Kadapa 43.8ºC, Nagaradone in Kurnool and Gurajala in Palnadu 43.7ºC, Kommipadu in Nellore 43.5ºC, Bhattuvanipalli in Anantapur 43.4ºC, Bukkapatnam in Sri Sathya Sai 43.2ºC, Bestapalli in Tirupati 43.1ºC, and Nooliveedu in Annamayya 43ºC.

STRONGROOMS

Congress keeps watch, LDF & NDA 'not keen'

ASWIN ASOK KUMAR @T'Puram

DESPITE allegations of potential malpractice surrounding the opening of strongrooms where electronic voting machines (EVMs) are stored surfacing, not all parties seem interested in putting in all of their time and effort into monitoring the visuals of CCTVs installed outside the facilities.

While Congress leaders said the party workers are proactively keeping a watch at strongrooms in all districts, LDF and NDA leaders maintained that they were not very keen on focusing on the matter. Even in the capital district, which witnessed triangular tussles in seats like Nemom, Vattiyoorkavu, Kazhakkoottam and Thiruvananthapuram, the 'CCTV monitoring room' that shows the feed from cameras outside strongrooms, not all party representatives are present. A Congress representative from Thiruvananthapuram said they were working in shifts to ensure foolproof, round-the-clock transparency.

"The party's observers are active across the state," Thiruvananthapuram DCC president N Shakthan told TNIE. "The high command has clearly instructed them to be cautious. We cannot take any risk. Though our hope is that such moves that can challenge democracy are not taken in Kerala, we remain cautious."

Meanwhile, a CPM official said neither the party nor LDF was very keen on focusing on the matter. "The Congress may need to do it as it is in a tough political spot at present," said the official.

BJP leaders too said they had people designated for the purpose (checking the CCTV room).

JUMBO GATHERING

People gather on 'Paramekkavu' and 'Thiruvambadi' sections during 'Kudamattam' ritual during the 'Thrissur Pooram' festivals, in Kerala's Thrissur on Sunday| A SANEESH

Naidu to lay stone for Google data centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** will lay the foundation stone for the Google AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam on April 28, marking the beginning of a new era in Andhra Pradesh's technology landscape.

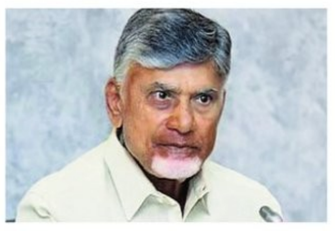
The project, with an investment of $15 billion, is set to become one of the largest foreign direct investments in India's history, and will establish Visakhapatnam as a permanent fixture on the global technology map.

The upcoming facility will be a hyperscale AI Data Centre with a capacity of 1 Gigawatt, spread across nearly 600 acres in Tarluwada, Adavivaram and Rambilli.

With this, Visakhapatnam is poised to emerge as a key AI gateway for Asia, joining the ranks of the world's leading technology hubs.

The project has been made possible through the NDA government's proactive Speed of Doing Business policy, designed to attract large-scale investments. Speaking ahead of the event, Chief Minister Naidu said the arrival of Google represents a turning point for Andhra Pradesh. "Visakhapatnam will no longer be just a Port City; it will be recognised globally as a Data City. This project is not only about infrastructure but about creating opportunities, jobs, and a future where Andhra Pradesh stands tall on the international technology stage."

The data centre will be supported by subsea cable connectivity, giving Visakhapatnam direct digital links with several countries. Partners such as



AdaniConneX and Airtel Nxtra are part of the consortium, while the State government's long-term vision is to build a multi-gigawatt digital hub of 6.5 GW capacity across Andhra Pradesh.

Beyond infrastructure, the project is expected to generate thousands of jobs in artificial intelligence, cloud operations, maintenance, cybersecurity, cloud architecture, and data science. The revenue generated through data centres will strengthen the State economy, while allied sectors such as power systems, cooling technologies, server manufacturing, and networking are expected to see fresh investments, creating a robust AI ecosystem. Visakhapatnam's coastal location makes it ideal for an international submarine cable landing station, further enhancing its global connectivity. The government is also making arrangements to ensure green energy supply for data centres proposed by Google and other technology firms.

With global companies focusing on Visakhapatnam, world-class infrastructure such as the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport will add to the city's global appeal.

In line with Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision, the Google AI Data Centre project is set to become a landmark in transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global technology powerhouse.

74-yr-old man beaten to death on Chennai bus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IN a shocking incident, a 74-year-old man was allegedly assaulted and killed by a fellow passenger inside a Vadapalani-bound MTC bus on Sunday noon. Police suspect that the accused was under the influence of ganja.

According to police sources, the deceased, identified as Chandrasekaran of Chennai, boarded the bus, plying between Guduvancheri and Vadapalani, at the Tambaram MEPZ bus stop while the accused, Amarnath (25) of Villupuram, got on at Tambaram. Amarnath proceeded to look at the LED display on the bus and asked Chandrasekaran, who was sitting nearby, to read out to him what was written on it.

"Chandrasekaran was reluctant to engage with Amarnath and asked him to approach the conductor," said a police source. This resulted in a heated argument between them. The conductor intervened and asked Chandrasekaran to shift to another seat in the front of the bus. As he got up to move, another round of arguments erupted ending in Amarnath strangling Chandrasekaran before assaulting him in the face and chest. Chandrasekaran collapsed onto the floor of the bus," police said. The driver halted the bus and other passengers rushed Chandrasekaran to a hospital in an autorickshaw but he was declared dead on arrival by doctors.

Meanwhile, Amarnath was beaten up by other passengers and handed over to the Chromepet police.

Amarnath, a mason, had moved to Chennai for work and was residing in Tambaram, sources added.

EXPRESS READ

KTR: Revanth facing identify crisis, slamming KCR out of frustration

HYDERABAD: Alleging that Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy was facing an identity crisis, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday said that the former was criticising BRS president and his predecessor K Chandrasekhar Rao out of "this frustration". Referring to an event organised on Saturday where the programme anchor mistakenly mentioned IT & Industry Minister D Sridhar Babu as the chief minister, Rama Rao said sarcastically: "Even anchors and programme coordinators are not recognising the CM. Because of this frustration, Revanth Reddy keeps targeting KCR." "Not just actors and anchors, even general public was unwilling to take Revanth Reddy's name," he said. ENS

CASHEW APPLE PULP AND JUICE CAN BOOST FARMERS' INCOME

DIVYA CUTINHO @ Mangaluru

VALUE addition of the cashew apple, a traditionally discarded by-product of the cashewnut industry, is gaining traction across Dakshina Kannada, with ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR) at Puttur promoting processing of non-alcoholic products, including cashew apple pulp, that can boost farmers' income.

So far, three farmers from Dakshina Kannada and neighbouring Kasargod district have successfully processed cashew apple pulp. A farmer couple successfully completed trial production of cashew apple pulp —Vishwakeshava and Navyashri Kuruveri from Kasargod who have undergone cashew apple value addition training at ICAR-DCR, are selling their products offline and online on www.kuruveri.com. Kuruveri, who has a five-acre farm with around 900 cashew trees, says cashew apple juice and pulp can provide additional income to farmers. Since the cashew season is almost over, he plans to scale up cashew apple pulp production next year for commercial purposes.

Vishwakeshava and Navyashri Kuruveri from Kasargod making cashew apple pulp

Farmers Radhakrishna of Abhijnana Food Products, Puttur, and Shyam Bhat have also succeeded in trial pulp production; Radhakrishna is also planning large-scale production of pulp next year.

Shree Padre, editor of the farm journal *Adike Patrike*, who along with other enthusiasts have been studying cashew apple as a value-addition product for the past four months, said Vishwakeshava Kuruveri has shown the farmer community that cashew pulp making is very easy, and low on tech and investment. "Farmers need to buy only a deep freezer, and a few ziplock covers. Cashew apple fruit is available for only a few months but using pulp, farmers can extract juice, squash etc throughout the year and earn profit," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Mr.K.Harish S/o.L.Krishna, No.233/1, Byraveshwara Nilaya, 13th main B Cross, Sankalappa residency NRI Layout Kalkere Horamavu Bangalore -560043.

My client is the absolute owner in possession the property bearing Site No.107, BBMP khatha SI No.7961, formed in Property No.370, new Property No.370/1, Measuring east to west 50 feet, North to south 80 feet, in all totally measuring 4000Sq feet., Situated at Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on :-

East By : Site No.108
West By : Site No.106
North By : Site No.112
South By : Road

My client has lost the Original property documents i.e. Registered Sale deed bearing Doc.No.KRI-1-01142-2022-23 C.D.No.KRID1471 dated 29.04.2022, registered K.R.Puram Sub-Registrar, Bangalore.

The said property is in possession of Mr.K.Harish is the absolute owner and free from all encumbrances whatsoever.

My Client had lost the above mentioned deed; Inspite of several efforts the Original deed not found and he had lodged the police complaint through online dated 24.04.2026, Lost report No.2171193/2026.

If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned.

PREMA B DUBAE - ADVOCATE
FFD VI, 4th floor Sampoorna Chambers, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V.Puram, Bengaluru-560004. 080-42053588/080-42296969

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my client **Smt Bhagyamma** C/o R.N.Krishnappa, Aged 55 Years Residing at RajagereHuttri Durga Hobli, Kempanahalli, Kunigal, Tumkur Karnataka-572130 has lost Original Sale Deed bearing document NoBLN-1-49763-2006-07 stored in CD No BLND353 registered before Sub Registrar Bangalore North on 06.11.2006 and Original Cancellation Deed bearing Document no LAG-1-00303-2009-10 stored in CD No LAGD38 registered before Sub Registrar Laggare on 18.04.2009 the said documents with respect to Property no 106, New Khatha no 353, situated in Survey no 67/1, Herohalli Village, YeshwanthpuraHobli , Bangalore Rural measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet Totally Measuring 1200 Sq feet.The above document have not been recovered. In this regard an online Police Complaint have also been lodged in Tumkur Police Unit on 23/4/2026 registered as lost report bearing no. 2169763/2026.

If any person has any claim or holding of the afore said documents may contact the under signed with in Ten days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

ANANTHAKASHYAP .H.K, ADVOCATE
No 3/2," Thimmaiah Towers", 2nd Floor, Office no.03, 1st cross Gandhinagar Bengaluru- 560009. Ph:9538396569
Email: ananthkashyap93@gmail.com

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-23)
O.S. No. 3613 OF 2025.

BETWEEN: SRI. P. CHANDRASHEKAR, aged 54 years, S/o. late Ponnuswamy, R/at. No.7, Reading Room Street, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore- 560 006 ...**PLAINTIFF**

AND: M/S. SUNSHREE BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS PVT LTD. AND ORS ...**DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT No.1

To,. M/S. SUNSREE BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD., No.12/3, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, ULSOOR, BENGALURU-560 008. REP BY ITS DIRECTORS, **(1) MRS. H.G. GEETHA, (2). MR. RAGHUVEER H.G.**

Whereas P. Chandrashekar has instituted a suit against you for Specific Performance of the registered Agreement to sell dated 09.01.2025.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a Pleader duly instructed able to answer all such question, on **22/06/2026** at **11.00 o`Clock** in the forenoon, failing wherein, the said suit will be heard and determined ex parte.

SCHEDULE

ITEM No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.2, House List No.(2) of Devasandra (Dyavasandra) Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bearing Municipal Khata No.63, New BEL Road, Dyavasandra, Bangalore measuring about 2442 Sq.ft., in triangular shape formed out of 13.5 guntas in erstwhile Sy.Nos.31/1 and 32/2 of Devasandra Village and bounded on the: **East by:** New BEL Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Property bearing No.3

Together with structures measuring about two squares built with mud and cement flooring with asbestos roof.

ITEM No. II: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.3, House List No.(3) of Devasandra (Dyavasandra) Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bearing Municipal Khata No.64, New BEL Road, Dyavasandra, Bangalore measuring about 2530 Sq.ft., in triangular shape formed out of 13.5 guntas in erstwhile Sy.Nos.31/1 and 32/2 of Devasandra Village and bounded on the: **East by:** New BEL Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Private bearing Site No.2, **South by:** Property bearing No.5

Together with structures measuring about two squares built with mud and cement flooring with asbestos roof.

ITEM NO. III: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.5, House List No.(5) of Devasandra (Dyavasandra) Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bearing Municipal Khata No.65, New BEL Road, Dyavasandra, Bangalore measuring about 4684 Sq.ft., formed out of 13.5 guntas in erstwhile Sy.Nos.31/1 and 32/2 of Devasandra Village and bounded on the: **East by:** New BEL Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private bearing Site No.3, **South by:** Property bearing No.6

Together with structures measuring about two squares built with mud and cement flooring with asbestos roof.

ITEM No. IV: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.6, House List No.(6) of Devasandra (Dyavasandra) Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bearing Municipal Khata No.66, New BEL Road, Dyavasandra, Bangalore measuring about 4588 Sq.ft., formed out of 13.5 guntas in erstwhile Sy.Nos.31/1 and 32/2 of Devasandra Village and bounded on the: **East by:** New BEL Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private bearing Site No.5, **South by:** Property bearing No.1 and NGO's Layout Site No.237

Together with structures measuring about two squares built with mud and cement flooring with asbestos roof.

The above properties have now been assigned as BBMP PID Nos. 4-82-63, 4-82-64, 4-82-65 and 4-82-66, Ward No.35, Aramane Nagar, BBMP, Bangalore.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 24/04/2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff: **NANDA KISHORE. J**
#144/1 2nd Floor, 5th Main, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru- 18.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore–560 001.
O. A. No.2255/2024

Between: State Bank of India, SARB J. C. Road, Bangalore. ...**Applicant**
And
Sri. Kuber Kemkar ...**Defendants**

01. Kuber Kemkar, S/o. Krishna Rao Kemkar, Aged about 57 years, Residing at : Flat No. 106, 2B, Krishna Ikon, Annasandrapalya, HAL Post , Bangalore - 560 017.

Also at : Park College, of Engineering & Technology, Avinashi Road (NH 47), Kaniyur, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu - 641 659.

Also at : No. 101, Sharada Manor, 26th Cross, Balaji Layout, Kaggadasapura, C. V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 093.

Also at : Flat No. 106, Block II, Wing 'B' Krishna Ikon Apartments, Vibhutipura Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 017.

02. Smt. Snigdha Kemkar, W/o. Kuber Kemkar, Aged about 54 years, Residing at : Flat No. 106, 2B, Krishna Ikon, Annasandra palya, HAL Post , Bangalore - 560 017.

...**Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

Whereas, this Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.38,51,082/-** (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Eighty Two Only) together with the agreed rate of interest at the rate of 9.25 % compounded monthly with costs and other reliefs. You are therefore hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of this publication or on **29.05.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in the forenoon in person or by a pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **24th day of April 2026.** By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore–560 001.
O. A. No.2042/2024

Between: State Bank of India, SARB J. C. Road, Bangalore. ...**Applicant**
And
Smt. Sreyosi Pal ...**Defendant**

01. Smt. Sreyosi Pal, W/o. Mr. Suvrjit, Sarkar, Aged about 30 years, Residing at : No. 96, PWD Road, UB Colony, Baranagar, North 24 Paraganas,Kolkata- 700 108.

Also at : Sri Balaji Ocean, Flat No. 311, Narayanaghatta Village, Puttanallur Cross, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore - 560 099.

Also at : No. 005 H, Aratt Adora, Gunjur Palya, Near Krupanidhi College, Bangalore 560 087.

02. Sri Suvrajit Sarkar, S/o. Ajay, Aged about 41 years, No. 96, PWD Road, UB Colony, Baranagar, North 24 Paraganas, Kolkata- 700 108.

Also at : Sri Balaji Ocean, Flat No. 311, Narayanaghatta Village, Puttanallur Cross, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore - 560 099.

Also at : No. 005 H, Aratt Adora, Gunjur Palya, Near Krupanidhi College, Bangalore 560 087.

Also at : Digital Harbor Pvt. Ltd., Ground Floor, Velocity Building, Prestige Tech Park- III, Sarjapur, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560 103 ...**Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

Whereas, this Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.39,15,076/-** (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Seventy Six Only) together with the agreed rate of interest at the rate of 8.95 % compounded monthly with costs and other reliefs. You are therefore hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of this publication or on **29.05.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in the forenoon in person or by a pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **24th day of April 2026.** By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

QuoteExpress

ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

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Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (II FL-H FL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) mad with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower dears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs. charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Manju Shivshakti Textiles Mr. Nema Ram **(Prospect No IL10139412)**	All That Piece And Parcel Of B-009, Floor No. 0, Block B, Abhi Homes, Survey No. 9 Byachapura Village, Kasaba Hobli Devanhalli Taluk Bangalore Rural District, 562110 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Saleable_ area, Carpet_area Property Area: 696.00, 489.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	₹1592872/- Rupees Fifteen Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two Only	06-01-2026	23-04-2026
Mr. Venkatappa Mrs. Sujathamma Venkatappa **(Prospect No IL10290883)**	All that piece and parcel of Property no.16/1, Katha no.16/1 situated at Doddabalapura town, Doddabalapura TQ, Bangalore Dist, Karnataka. 561203 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Area_ Admeasuring Property Area: 2000 Bounded By: North: 4 Feet Drinage South: Private Property East: Private Property West: 19 Wide Road	₹1512402/- Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Two Only	05-01-2026	23-04-2026
Mr. Vijendra Vishwas, Rental Income, V M S Springs, Mrs. Yadavanahalli Mariyanna Jayalakshmamma **(Prospect No. IL10715477)**	All that piece and parcel of Assessment No 84/10, Site No 66, Situated At BBMP Ward No 73 Shrigandhakavalu Village, Yeshvantpura Hobli, Banglore North TQ, Banglore Karnataka , 560091 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Area_Admeasuring Property Area: 1500.00 Bounded By: North: Site No 63 South: Road East: Site No 67 West: Site No 65	₹8227097.38/- Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Ninety Seven and Thirty Eight Paise Only	11-02-2026	21-04-2026

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office :** "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025 **or Corporate Office :** IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 27-04-2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

EDITORIAL

In the end, peace can be achieved only by hegemony or by balance of power — Henry A Kissinger

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

100% ETHANOL BLENDING: STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN FOOD & ENERGY SECURITY

UNION Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari's renewed push for 100 percent ethanol blending foregrounds a critical policy dilemma: how far can India pursue energy self-reliance without unsettling its food economy? The urgency is evident. India meets about 80 percent of its crude oil demand through imports, at an annual cost of roughly $150 billion, leaving both the economy and diplomacy exposed—as crude prices hover near $100 a barrel amid the West Asia crisis. Under the current 20 percent blending mandate, the country is estimated to have saved over ₹1.5 lakh crore in foreign exchange. Scaling this to 100 percent, however, is far from straightforward.

The auto industry must align with the government's flex-fuel policy, while the government must prepare the ground for E100 adoption. Resistance persists, as manufacturers would need to upgrade engines for compatibility. Concerns over fuel corrosiveness and lower mileage—though disputed—have unsettled consumers. The government must therefore persuade both industry and users. But the real test of an aggressive blending target lies beyond engines—in the incentives it creates for agriculture. The Economic Survey 2025–26 has warned that expanded blending could distort cropping patterns, increase food price volatility and worsen long-term nutritional security. Farmers are already responding to these signals. While sugarcane remains dominant, maize is emerging as a key feedstock. Between FY22 and FY25, maize-based ethanol prices rose 11.7 percent annually, while acreage expanded by about 7 percent, often at the expense of oilseeds and pulses.

Policy choices are reinforcing this shift. The allocation of about 5.2 million tonnes of rice from FCI stocks for ethanol in 2024-25—up sharply from under 3,000 tonnes earlier—marks a decisive turn toward foodgrain-based fuel. An ethanol-driven 'corn rush' is nudging farmers away from soybeans and pulses, tightening domestic supplies. This raises dependence on edible oil imports, with implications for foreign exchange. Maize diversion also strains the poultry sector, where it's a key feed component, pushing up prices and necessitating imports to stabilise markets. Using foodgrains for fuel rather than the PDS raises difficult questions in a country still grappling with malnutrition. India must avoid creating incentives that undermine food security. Adopting market-linked ethanol pricing, as in Brazil—the only country with 100 percent blending—could help avoid policy bias toward cash crops. A calibrated approach, alongside a shift toward second-generation ethanol from waste and parallel investment in EVs, would better balance energy goals with economic and nutritional stability.

URBAN HEAT: ACT NOW, B'LURU SIGNALS DANGER

EXPERTS from the Indian Institute of Science and Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute have called for a climatological assessment of Bengaluru to determine how much—and what kind of—development can proceed without damaging the city's environment and worsening temperatures. This call carries lessons for cities across India seeking to avoid repeating the mistakes of the 'IT Capital of India', which witnessed unchecked growth during the IT boom of the 1980s and 1990s and now shows signs of heading the Delhi way.

The Centre for Ecological Sciences, in its report '*Urban Heat Island Linkages with Landscape Morphology*', highlights how unplanned expansion has increased paved surfaces and intensified the urban heat island effect. Higher temperatures compared to surrounding regions are driven by human activity, shrinking vegetation and the excessive use of heat-absorbing materials such as asphalt and concrete and heat-reflecting glass facades. Over decades, Bengaluru has seen a steady conversion of green spaces and water bodies into built-up areas, a trend widely linked to rising land surface temperatures. Research on urban form also shows that dense, poorly planned layouts can restrict airflow and trap heat within city spaces. Climatological assessment of urban development projects is therefore not optional but essential. It must account for impacts on humidity, rainfall, temperature patterns, air quality and population distribution. Urban India is expanding rapidly, with its population projected to reach 60 crore by 2031, up from 37.71 crore in 2011, and urban centres expected to contribute 75 percent of the GDP by 2030. Such growth demands infrastructure, but not at the cost of long-term sustainability.

Bengaluru stands as a cautionary tale of development undertaken without adequate scientific grounding. Today's response—knee-jerk mega projects such as tunnel road networks—risks repeating the same mistake if pursued without rigorous assessment. Unchecked increases in built-up density, without ecological buffers, can intensify heat stress and raise energy demand for cooling. Meanwhile, warnings from agencies such as the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre on impending heat risks continue to receive limited policy attention. Climatological pre-development assessments must be made mandatory across urban India. Integrating ecology into planning—such as protecting green cover and limiting excessive paving—can help balance growth with resilience. Ignoring it is no longer merely an oversight; it's a policy failure with lasting consequences.

QUICK TAKE

SELLING SOLACE

ACROSS Spain and Brazil, hyper-realistic 'reborn' dolls—crafted to mimic newborns in weight, touch and skin tone—have emerged as a growing trend. Sold widely online, they are dressed, cradled and spoken to as if alive. For some, the dolls offer comfort in loneliness or grief and are even used for therapeutic care, including dementia support. But unease lingers beneath their popularity. The line between imagination and reality blurs when adults begin nurturing objects as if they were children. An industry thrives on this, profiting from loss and longing. Reborn dolls point to simulated relationships—possible precursors to AI companions and virtual partners—and raise questions about empathy, reciprocity and human complexity.

The Bill's defeat was unlikely to be accidental: it points to a broader political strategy around blame, electoral arithmetic and delimitation

MEANT TO MISS, MADE TO MATTER

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

THAT the so-called Women's Reservation Bill was bound to fail was evident from the outset. Introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026 (the Bill), it could have been passed only had the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) mustered the support of two-thirds of the Lok Sabha. Even the Enforcement Directorate could not come to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) aid. A party that has mastered the arithmetic of power, a government so deeply steeped in manipulating outcomes, must have known that the numbers required for passing the Bill were stacked against it. The reason behind its introduction, that too at a special session held between April 16 and 18, 2026 stares us in the face.

The BJP knew that it had very little chance of establishing a meaningful foothold in the Assembly elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It was, however, confident that Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam, with the toxic nature of his politics, may well be re-elected. Therefore, the real target was to weaken the juggernaut of Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal. The special session was convened knowing full well that the first phase of the elections in West Bengal was to be held on April 23 and the second on April 29. Any date prior to polling in the first phase would, in a sense, disrupt the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) campaign rhythm, since the Opposition could not risk TMC members being absent in the Lok Sabha when the Bill was debated and voted upon. The NDA, with 293 Lok Sabha members, could secure only 298 votes, including 4 from the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party.

The defeat enabled the BJP to blame the Congress and the entire Opposition, as the Prime Minister did in his address to the nation, for depriving women of the 33 percent reservation of seats in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The total strength of the lower House of Parliament, as envisaged in the Bill, was 850 seats. The difference between the existing 543 and the proposed 850 seats accounted for 33 percent of the Lok Sabha's strength. The BJP thought it would be a potent campaign slogan to blame Mamata and the entire Opposition for stalling the Bill and for being anti-women. But this was not the only reason why the Bill was introduced.

Had the BJP succeeded in passing the Bill by somehow mustering a two-thirds majority in the House, the consequences would have helped it remain in power for many years to come. As the Bill proposed 850 as the total strength of the Lok Sabha in 2029, it would have required the readjustment of the boundaries of all parliamentary constituencies in each state based on population. Such an adjustment would require a delimitation exercise. For that reason, a separate Delimitation Bill was introduced. The delimitation process, as we saw in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, has now become highly politically biased, with the chairperson of the Delimitation Commission ensuring that constituency boundaries are re-adjusted to favour the BJP. The original 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, which was passed unanimously, required a population census to be conducted after 2026 and, thereafter, a delimitation exercise reserving 33 percent of the seats for women in the newly constituted Lok Sabha.

We are all aware that the population growth has been much faster in the Hindi heartland than in the southern states. With the extent of population, based on a census to be held after 2026 becoming the basis for determining the increase in the strength of each Assembly, any future Lok Sabha elections would have tilted the scale in favour of the BJP for years to come. This will inevitably violate the principle of federalism by giving much greater weightage to the states in the North, as representation in Parliament is based on adult franchise. Such an outcome will never be acceptable to southern states. The BJP, therefore, cleverly decided not to implement the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, which had been unanimously passed, by introducing a new Bill that stands defeated. Had the new Bill passed, it would have discarded the 1971 census, on which subsequent Lok Sabha elections were held as well as the 2001 census, on which the number of seats in the Assemblies was fixed. We would then have been left with only the 2011 census.

The delimitation based on the 2011 census would have allowed a proportional increase of 50 percent in each state, based on the number of seats already in place. For example, in the state of Tamil Nadu, a 50 percent increase would have resulted in the number of seats going up from 39 to 59 pursuant to a delimitation exercise, while in Uttar Pradesh, they would have increased from 80 to 120. The gap in the number of seats between Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh would have increased from 41 to 61. The same pattern of increase in seats in the Hindi heartland would have negatively impacted the southern states.

The reason for this hurried exercise by the BJP was to secure a stranglehold over election outcomes, because its success rate in the Hindi heartland is much higher than in key southern states. This permanent political advantage to the BJP would have been the bane of the Opposition, placing it at a lasting disadvantage.

The result of this defeat is that, in terms of the 106th Constitution Amendment Act, 2023, a census is required to be held after 2026. However, my hunch is that the BJP would still attempt a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 census before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections to manipulate yet another outcome. This will give rise to another constitutional issue.

In the meantime, the BJP is sitting pretty with over 2,400 companies of the Central Armed Police Force in West Bengal. The entire machinery of the Union government in collaboration with the Election Commission is working against the state.

The stage is set for many battles to be fought to save what is left of Indian democracy.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

A VOW IN GOLD

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

COMING up on Friday, May 1 is Buddha Purnima and my thoughts turned to what was once the most important garden in the Gangetic plain at Sravasti in present-day Uttar Pradesh. It was called Jetavana, the Grove of Prince Jeta, meaning 'Kumar'.

Sravasti was then among the six wealthiest cities in the North. A local merchant-philanthropist called Anatha-Pindika, meaning 'help of the helpless', was an admirer of the Buddha. He wanted to buy him a grove as a retreat from Prince Jeta of Sravasti.

Prince Jeta did not want to sell, though and when Anatha-Pindika kept on requesting him for it, he laughed, "Not even if you cover the entire ground of the grove with gold coins".

Anatha-Pindika then took Prince Jeta to court, where the judges ruled that if Anatha-Pindika could meet the price mentioned, he had the right of purchase. Royalty was not above the law in Sravasti.

Such was Anatha-Pindika's commitment that he collected money in cartloads and began to cover the ground with gold. This overwhelmed Prince Jeta, who went to meet the Buddha to see Anatha-Pindika's inspiration for himself.

Like others, Prince Jeta was impressed by the Buddha's personality and astounded that a prince, the heir to his father's throne, could have walked away from position, power and wealth to seek a cure for suffering.

He donated a portion of the grove that remained uncovered and used Anatha-Pindika's money to build a gateway and room there. Five hundred bankers stood with Anatha-Pindika at the inauguration. Both the establishment and the commoners backed the Buddha.

I have not yet managed to visit the excavated site of Jetavana. I hope I will someday see the remains of the Buddha's own room and Anatha-Pindika's mansion.

It's said that a big pipal at the garden entrance, descended from the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya, was originally planted by Ananda, the Buddha's faithful disciple. Ananda's idea was that the pipal could be the local sangha's focal point during the Buddha's absence from Sravasti.

Accordingly, the Buddha is said to have blessed the tree and to have meditated all night under it, and I've heard that modern visitors to Jetavana like to do the same too to feel close to him.

The Buddha must have really liked Jetavana, for he often returned to it for the important *chaturmaas* (monsoon) retreat—19, 24 or 25 times, sources differ on that. He is said to have composed and preached 871 *sutras* there. Certainly, Jetavana remains a poignant example of commitment.

Similarly, the much-loved Mahajanaka Jataka offers enduring inspiration for making a determined effort against all odds.

The Bodhisattva, or Buddha in a previous birth, is figured here as the prince of Mithila. His father, the king, was killed by a younger brother in a palace coup. The pregnant queen fled disguised as a beggar, hiding some jewels in a packet of muddy rice.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Buddha, in various birth cycles, has inspired commitment, perseverance, justice and selflessness. In one life, he astounded people with his humility by walking away from power and wealth, and in the other, displayed heroism by braving a life born out of a coup that killed his father

Unused to the outside world, she trustingly asked passersby the way to the kingdom of Champa, the only faraway place she knew of. Her plight attracted the pity of Sakra (Indra), king of the Devas. He came by, disguised as a man in a fine cushioned cart and offered to take her to Champa, getting her there overnight by magic. The queen then went to bathe in the river. The enlightened being she carried made her glow and she caught the eye of a wise, kind priest who took her home as his adopted sister.

The Bodhisattva was born in safety and the queen named him Mahajanaka, meaning 'happy outcome' or 'fruitful', after his royal grandfather. Though a bright, beautiful boy, the Bodhisattva was often taunted as 'the widow's son'. At sixteen, he made his mother tell him who his father was, which gave him confidence.

He took a portion of the jewels his mother had saved and sailed to Suvarnabhumi, the golden land across the Eastern Sea, to make his fortune in trade before he went to Mithila to win back his kingdom.

More than 350 people from seven caravans were crowded on board the ship. When it hit a storm in the high seas, it began to flounder. The Bodhisattva filled his stomach with ghee and sugar to nourish him, hastily rubbed oil over his limbs for insulation from cold sea water, climbed to the top of the mast and jumped as far as he could. In this way, he escaped the sharks circling the sinking vessel.

He swam back resolutely towards India, pouring all his energy into the effort. He did not stop trying despite being alone in the ocean.

After seven long days, Manimekhala, the goddess of the Eastern Sea, who had been deputed to save the deserving, returned from a visit to friends and spotted the Bodhisattva. She floated above him and, to test his worthiness, asked, "Unable to see the shore, why are you nevertheless trying to reach it?"

"Goddess, I know that effort is a human duty. So, though I cannot see the shore from the middle of the ocean, I won't stop trying," he answered.

Wishing to test him more, she said, "The ocean stretches much farther than you imagine. Your effort is useless; you are bound to die."

The prince said, "Dear goddess, how can effort ever be useless? He who never gives up will have a clear conscience. He won't be blamed, either by society or by the gods. Plans may succeed or fail. But knowing you did your best while you could is the reward."

Pleased, the goddess whisked him ashore and, soon after, he won Mithila back.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Trumps' nadir

Ref: *World order of insults* (Apr 26). The threatening language by Donald Trump is unbecoming of the office he holds and deeply damaging to global diplomacy. Nations remain measured in their response not out of weakness but because they refuse to descend into the same culture of insult.
Lawrence Vadukut, Thrissur

Jhalmuri's moment

Ref: *Machh ado* (Apr 26). Once a quiet culinary hero, jhalmuri has now achieved national strategic importance, thanks to a high-profile endorsement. Naturally, regional sentiments have been stirred and voters' attention diverted. Ownership of street food is now political sensitivity. But let us not complicate things; as they say in Bengal "jhalmuri *khabe*, celebrate *korbe*".
Ramani Ramanathan, Jamshedpur

Airport alternatives

Ref: *Impact of Puri airport* (Apr 25). Project alternatives can be considered, but there is none for the ecosystem. An airport that tramples upon the ecosystem is not progress but folly. Building an airport between Balugaon and Khordha could be an option.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

Gadgets illusion

Ref: *Digital disaster* (*The New Sunday Express Magazine*, Apr 26). Youngsters carry with gadgets a decadent illusion that everything that is to be known in the world is in their pockets. But little do they realise—or are counselled—that the habit robs them of real-world intellect. Appropriate parenting can save them from the malady.
Sanath Kumar T S, email

Friendly fire

Ref: *Exit of the policy mind* (Apr 26). AAP's weakening is largely self-inflicted, stemming from questionable decisions and governance lapses during its tenure in Delhi. Targeting leaders like Raghav Chadha, who raised genuine public concerns, reflects insecurity rather than accountability. Arvind Kejriwal must introspect and correct course instead of sidelining emerging voices.
T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Simplifying census

Ref: *India to count castes* (Apr 26). With barely five months to go for the census to be conducted in the Himalayan states and UTs, the population enumeration questionnaire should be ready. It would help if people are apprised now of the questions. This is particularly important with regard to caste.
N Rama Rao, Chennai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Congress politics has never been based on violence, nor will it ever be. We too have lost our workers, yet we have always chosen the path of non-violence

Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
USA has a gun problem, something that's been discussed year on year after every gun related incident.It's a 'hellhole' as far as tackling this problem is concerned

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
After remarks from Anubrata Mondal, Byron Biswas suggesting a BJP surge, now even Yusuf Pathan acknowledges the scale of development in BJP-ruled states.

Ladakh talks to resume, Centre calls meet in May

Activists demand direct discussions with the Union home minister

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AMID deadlock, the Centre on Sunday decided to hold talks with Ladakh leaders on May 22. The Ladakh leaders, who are pressing for grant of statehood and 6th Schedule status to the UT, have termed the sub-committee-level meeting with MHA officials as "meaningless". They demanded that talks be chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to the Union Territory.

"The MHA has decided to convene a meeting of the sub-committee on May 22. This will carry forward the process of constructive democratic dialogue with key stakeholders of Ladakh and pave the way for an enduring solution to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh," Ladakh Lt Governor V K Saxena said.

The last round of talks was held on February 4 during which the Centre objected to demands for statehood and 6th Schedule status, citing concerns about financial viability. The Centre proposed creation of a territorial council for Ladakh with the chief executive councillor of the hill council functioning as CM of the UT. The proposal was rejected by Ladakh leaders.

Leh Apex Body (LAB) co-chairman Chering Dorjey said they have not received any invitation for talks. "We have submitted our draft of demands to MHA. We have nothing new to say. It is now time for the government to say what they want to offer," he said. "If they want meaningful talks, it should be held at the ministerial level where decisions can be taken. Since Home Minister Amit Shah would visit Ladakh, he should chair the talks. It will be a significant move in gaining public trust and confidence."

The LAB has demanded withdrawal of cases against all the persons detained after last year's violence in Leh in which four persons were killed. "Like NSA was withdrawn against me, who was labelled as chief conspirator, the cases should be withdrawn against all the others detained after violence," climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said.

Asked whether Ladakh leaders would attend the talks with MHA, Dorjey said they will talk to Kargil Democratic Alliance and both forums will take a joint stand on it.

Territorial council proposal rejected by UT leaders

In the last round of talks held on February 4, the Centre objected to demands for statehood and 6th Schedule status, citing concerns about financial viability. The Centre proposed creation of a territorial council for Ladakh. The proposal was rejected by Ladakh leaders.

8,500 CAPF personnel to return to Manipur after poll duty ends in Bengal

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

CENTRAL Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) that were redeployed from Manipur to assist with election duties in West Bengal are set to return to the state following the completion of polling on April 29, sources said on Sunday.

Nearly 30% of the security personnel previously stationed in Manipur had been temporarily withdrawn in recent weeks for election duty, primarily in West Bengal, the sources said, adding that the move was part of standard arrangements to ensure smooth polling.

A senior government official stated that approximately 85 companies, comprising around 8,500 personnel, were moved out of the state for election duties. Prior to their withdrawal, more than 275 CAPF companies had been deployed across Manipur. "These companies will begin returning from April 29," he confirmed.

The phased return of these forces comes at a time when Manipur has been witnessing a fresh wave of violence and unrest across several districts. Authorities believe the redeployment of CAPF units will significantly strengthen security on the ground and support local law enforcement agencies in restoring stability.

"The situation remains sensitive. The return of central forces will enhance operational capacity and instill confidence among civilians," another senior official said.

In recent weeks, the state has experienced multiple incidents of violence, including targeted killings and attacks on both civilians and security personnel. Among the victims were children and members of the Border Security Force.

Security officials acknowledged that the temporary reduction in central forces created operational challenges, especially in vulnerable and conflict-prone zones. Despite this, state police and remaining CAPF units continued to carry out security operations.

Operational difficulty

In recent weeks, Manipur has experienced multiple incidents of violence. Security officials acknowledged that the temporary reduction created operational challenges, especially in vulnerable zones. Despite this, state police and remaining CAPF units continued to carry out security operations.

INSIDER TRACK

Bureaucrat turns down poll pitch

Even as the BJP has denied offering a party ticket to former Meghalaya Chief Secretary Donald Phillips Wahlang for the Shillong Lok Sabha bypoll, the retired 1993-batch IAS officer is learnt to have said he declined such an approach, citing "no interest" in entering politics. The development is being read as part of the party's broader outreach in the Northeast, where it has been seeking credible, clean-image faces to widen its footprint. The BJP maintained it follows a structured, rules-based process in candidate selection, and distanced itself from remarks made by senior party leader AL Hek offering Wahlang the ticket. It said they were his personal remarks.

Delayed promotions trigger heat

The Central Administrative Tribunal has taken note of delays in inducting State Police Service officers into the IPS cadre in Madhya Pradesh, issuing notices to both the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the state government. Petitioning officers argued they lost eligibility after crossing the upper age limit of 56, blaming delays in the mandatory cadre review process. As per rules, reviews are to occur every five years, but the one due in 2018 was conducted only in 2022. The lag effectively shut out several officers despite meeting criteria, raising questions over administrative lapses and their long-term impact on career progression.

Kaun Banega CM? Cong buzz builds

As the countdown to the Kerala Assembly election results gathers pace, the Congress headquarters is witnessing heightened speculation over possible leadership changes. Senior leader K C Venugopal is claimed to be emerging as a strong contender for the CM's post if the Congress-led UDF secures a favourable mandate. He is learnt to have intensified outreach to allies and senior leaders, signalling quiet groundwork. Nothing, however, has been finalised. In case of shifts involving Venugopal, names such as Ashok Gehlot and Randeep Singh Surjewala are also circulating as possible replacements, adding to the intrigue.

Outreach drive backfires on ground

An ambitious public outreach initiative by a chief minister in a BJP-ruled state appears to have yielded unintended consequences. Frequent grievance meetings were designed to strengthen public trust, but instead drew overwhelming crowds with high expectations. Many citizens reportedly left dissatisfied, as issues remained unresolved. The initial goodwill gradually gave way to discontent, signalling a disconnect between intent and execution. Recognising the shift, party leadership intervened. A series of constituency-level meetings followed, aimed at damage control and restoring engagement. Early feedback suggests the course correction has stabilised perceptions, at least enough to reassure the leadership amid growing political sensitivities.

Anand next Telangana DGP

With the UPSC clearing his name, 1991-batch IPS officer C.V. Anand is set to take over as the next DGP in Telangana. Sources said the panel sent by the UPSC to the state government places Anand as the senior-most officer. Incumbent B. Shivadhar Reddy is due to superannuate on April 30, 2026. Anand is currently serving as Special Secretary in the Home Department. Notably, his elevation has been anticipated, with the state government already appointing 1994-batch IPS officer Shikha Goel as his replacement in the home department.

12-year report card in the pipeline

All central ministries have been directed to prepare detailed reports on 12-year performance of the government, instructions reportedly straight from the Prime Minister's Office. The idea is to create a comprehensive "report card" highlighting key achievements, policy outcomes, and measurable impact on citizens. The ministries must include data on beneficiaries, scheme reach, and sector-wise progress, along with real-life success stories from the ground. Officials are already busy presenting a unified governance narrative. The exercise is seen as a coordinated effort to showcase results and strengthen public communication in the coming months.

PM lauds energy, nuclear milestones, urges people to endorse Census 2027

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded the nation for hitting milestones in the nuclear programme and the renewable energy sectors during his monthly radio address Mann ki Baat. He also urged citizens to actively participate in the ongoing Census 2027 exercise.

Describing a recent achievement in the nuclear programme as a "historic milestone", he said that the fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu has successfully achieved criticality. He noted that this marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards obtaining self-reliance in the energy sector and advanced nuclear capability.

Explaining the technical milestone, Modi said that criticality refers to the stage at which a nuclear reactor initiates a self-sustaining chain reaction for the first time, effectively signaling the beginning of its operational phase. He emphasised that the reactor has been developed entirely using indigenous technology.

He also pointed out that India recently crossed a major milestone in wind energy generation, with total installed capacity exceeding 56 GW. He added that approximately 6 GW of new capacity has been added over the past year alone, reflecting steady growth in the sector.

He called Census 2027 exercise as the largest such operation in the world. He urged citizens to view participation as a collective national duty. He said that all information collected during the census would remain secure and confidential.

This marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards obtaining self-reliance in the energy sector and advanced nuclear capability

Narendra Modi, PM

Wind energy

Modi pointed out that India recently crossed a milestone in wind energy with installed capacity exceeding 56 GW.

On Op Sindoor jubilee, Army to firm up theatre commands

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA'S top military brass is set to assemble in Jaipur for the Joint Commanders Conference in the first week of May, likely on 7 and 8 May, in a meet that coincides with the anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

The deliberations come at a juncture when the long-pending theaterisation process is now in advanced stages. "The proposed raising of dedicated rocket and missile forces and the review of Project Sudarshan Chakra is also expected to figure prominently. Alongside that, there will be a hard look at operational gaps, procurement priorities, indigenous capability building and how faster tri-service integration can sharpen combat readiness,"a source said.

"West Asia is offering real-time lessons in modern warfare, from integrated air and missile defence to drones, precision strikes, logistics chains and how multi-domain battles are currently unfolding. Those takeaways will also certainly be part of the discussions," the source added.

The last edition of the conference held in Kolkata was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It had placed emphasis on operational lessons from the 88-hour conflict as well as the broader theaterisation roadmap.

Earlier this month, it was learnt that around 90% of the groundwork on the broad framework for integrated theatre commands had been completed, with the proposal expected to move to the defence ministry this month before eventual consideration at higher political levels, including the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

While the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023 has already laid the foundation for greater jointness by empowering cross-service commanders, full-scale theatre commands may eventually require a wider legal framework, including possible amendments to the Army, Air Force and Navy Acts or fresh legislative measures.

The current theaterisation framework looks at three integrated theatre commands. The western theatre command, focused on Pakistan, is learnt to be Air Force-led. The northern theatre command, focused on China and the Line of Actual Control, is expected to be Army-led. The maritime theatre command, under the Navy, is expected to cover both seaboards and the Indian Ocean Region.

FILE PHOTO

'He documented history and horror of India'

PABLO BARTHOLOMEW
Independent photographer, Padmashree Awardee

RAGHU Rai is an important figure for Indian journalism—it is no small matter to have dominated the scene for 50 years. From the '70s to the '90s, from Mrs Indira Gandhi's time to the new millennium, he documented the history, achievements, the ups and downs, and the horrors of the country with his camera.

On another level, he is known for the books he has done, especially the ones on Mrs Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Punjab. To many people he is known for being a bookmaker, beyond his work in The Statesman and India Today.

We had a deep affection for each other but it was a love-hate relationship as well, being professional rivals and working as we were with different magazines or agencies—he with Time and Magnum and me with Gamma and Newsweek. Sometimes, we even travelled to the same spot in the same car which you had to do due to lack of resources. But there was a competitive edge, we both had stories to get out and get it out first. It was part of the game.

But much as people would like to create a controversy over our pictures, the truth is, there will always be similar images at a given point of time when two photographers are at a certain spot, at a certain time, shooting the same situation. We took the photo of the same child that became the iconic image for Bhopal. He shot it in black and white, I shot it in colour. Raghu was a well known photographer. In this case, he was able to mobilise the image—it's not really about his photo versus mine—but unfortunately in the case of Bhopal, we all failed.

The 1972 'Napalm girl' photo's controversy also is an important case study. It was crucial in shaping public opinion about the Vietnam war but now faces an attribution controversy. Similarly the Tiananmen Square photo is known to have seven versions but the world knows only the photo of the man facing the tank with his hand raised. Controversies can be cooked post-image. Bhopal was just one of the pearls in Raghu's quite a long necklace of accomplishments.

(As told to Paramita Ghosh)

Raghu Rai takes a picture on a winter morning in Old Delhi on January 11, 1992 | PTI

The 1972 'Napalm girl' photo's controversy also is an important case study. It was crucial in shaping public opinion about the Vietnam war but now faces an attribution controversy... Controversies can be cooked post-image. Bhopal was just one of the pearls in Raghu's quite a long necklace of accomplishments.

Court can reject anticipatory bail, not direct accused to surrender, says SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court, in a recent ruling has said that a court can reject the anticipatory bail of an accused in its order but it has no jurisdiction to direct him to surrender before the trial court.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan made the observation while hearing a plea filed by a man accused of cheating and forgery, against a Jharkhand High Court order which rejected his anticipatory bail plea and asked him to surrender and seek regular bail.

"If the court wants to reject the anticipatory bail, it may do so, but the court has no jurisdiction to say that the petitioner should now surrender," the bench said.

The top court further highlited that once a magistrate takes cognizance and issues process, the usual course is issuance of summons, and the accused is required only to appear before the court and participate in the proceedings.

The Court said police have no power to arrest an accused in a complaint case unless a non-bailable warrant is issued by the court. It also clarified that even during an inquiry under Section 202 CrPC, where a magistrate may seek a police report before issuing process, the police cannot arrest the accused.

It noted that despite this legal position, anticipatory bail applications are being routinely filed, particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand, resulting in unnecessary litigation reaching the Supreme Court.

Khera files plea against Gauhati HC bail refusal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Pawan Khera on Sunday approached the Supreme Court against the Gauhati High Court's order of rejection of his anticipatory bail plea in connection with an FIR filed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, for levelling allegations related to her holding three foreign passports and a company in the US.

The plea was filed on Sunday evening by his lawyer, Priyanka Sharma. As per the causelist, the petition has not been listed for hearing so far. Senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi may mention it before the Chief Justice led bench for an urgent hearing, on Monday.

TRAFFICKING

Three boys, who were allegedly being trafficked to Bengaluru, were rescued at a railway station in Ranchi, an RPF statement said on Sunday. A 27-year-old man was arrested, it said.

3 KILLED AFTER CAR HITS TRUCK IN MATHGHARIA OF ASSAM

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	44	28	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	40	26	Panaji	35	26
Jaipur	41	27	Patna	36	25
Amritsar	37	22	Lucknow	38	25
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	32	27
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	30	21
Srinagar	21	07	Chandigarh	37	23

PM assures Matua community, asks it not to believe in 'TMC lies on CAA' ● Banerjee says party has decided she will get fourth term as CM

All refugees to get Indian addresses: Modi in Bengal

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

SHARPENING his attack on CM Mamata Banerjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the TMC government obstructed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at the office of I-PAC in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam.

Accusing the TMC of sheltering 'goons who torture women', Modi said the BJP giving poll tickets to Sandeshkhali's Rekha Patra and the mother of the RG Kar victim is proof of the party's commitment to ensuring women's security.

"Trinamool Congress government had obstructed the work of the investigating agency. Attempts were made to suppress evidence. The Supreme Court has given strong directives on the matter. This kind of act is damaging for democracy," the PM said, addressing a rally in Haripal of Hooghly district.

On January 8, ED had conducted raids at Salt Lake office of I-PAC, political consultancy agency of TMC, and its director Prateek Jain's Kolkata residence. Banerjee had stormed into Jain's residence and allegedly taken away a file and electronic devices during the search operations.

Speaking at the Matua community citadel of Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas, Modi said all refugees who took shelter in India following religious persecution in the neighbouring nation will be granted citizenship through procedures outlined under the CAA. "Don't fall for TMC's lies on CAA. All refugees will receive permanent address in this country," he said.

"The TMC's 'nirmam sarkar' stands with goons who torture women of this state. Time has now come to say we will tolerate no more," the PM said. "Miscreants who rape and torture women will be brought to justice after May 4 by the new BJP government," he said.

"BJP's commitment to security of women" has been reflected in its decision to give tickets to Sandeshkhali's Rekha Patra and the mother of the RG Kar hospital doctor who was raped and murdered," Modi said. Sandeshkhali hogged limelight in 2024 after allegations of sexual abuse by TMC leaders came to the fore.

PM Narendra Modi offers prayers at Thanthania Kalibari in north Kolkata | PTI

2-km roadshow in Kolkata after prayers at Kalibari

PM Modi on Sunday took part in a roadshow in north Kolkata as the BJP intensified its campaign ahead of the final phase of Bengal polls. The roadshow started from B K Pal Avenue and ended at Khanna crossing via Sovabazar, covering two kms. Before the roadshow, the PM offered prayers at the over-300-year-old Thanthania Kalibari in north Kolkata.

If TMC is short of 2/3rd majority, BJP will start influencing MLAs: Didi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed that the BJP may indulge in horse-trading to form government in the state if the Trinamool Congress doesn't achieve a two-third majority in the elections to the 294-seat assembly.

"We are forming the government this time also. But the BJP may resort to horse-trading if we do not get the two-third majority," the Trinamool Congress chief said, addressing an election rally on her home turf Bhabanipur in south Kolkata. She took out a padyatra in her constituency, where leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari is pitted against her.

"They (BJP) had formed government in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh by indulging in horse-trading. My request to you to vote for us in the remaining 142 seats in the second phase elections on April 29," she said. Elections for 152 seats were held in the first phase on April 23.

Banerjee said she would be the Chief Minister again if Trinamool Congress forms government in Bengal for the fourth time in a row since 2011 when it had stormed to power

ending the 34-year-old CPI(M)-Left Front rule. "We are coming to power again. As per the party decision, I have to lead the government again," she said.

Analysts say the Trinamool supremo's fear ahead of the final phase of the polls indicates the ruling party's confusion over reaching the majority mark of 148 seats in the assembly. Both the TMC and BJP have claimed that they would win more than 100 seats in the first phase polls in the 152 seats.

Expressing her displeasure over state police, Banerjee said, "BJP is sending selected officers to Bengal. Mind it, Central observers will leave the state after May 4. You will stay with us. Why do you work for BJP only?"

EC warns cops against laxity on Phase II poll day

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission (EC) on Sunday warned Kolkata Police and South 24 Parganas district police against any lapses in maintaining law and order during the second phase of polling on April 29.

EC sources said the panel has made it clear that strict action would be taken against officers found negligent in dealing with voter intimidation or use of explosives to create fear. "Senior officials, including Kolkata Police Commissioner, SPs, DCPs and officers at the level of officers-incharge and inspectors-incharge, have been put on notice," a source said.

The EC emphasised that any instance of explosives being used or threatening tactics being employed within an officer's jurisdiction will invite "severe and unprecedented consequences," the source said, adding that they have been instructed to ensure that such materials are seized within 24 hours. "The warning was reiterated during a coordination meeting between election officials and police authorities from Kolkata and South 24 Parganas," the source said.

Officials said the Commission has asked police to undertake a special drive to arrest bomb makers. They said bomb-making cases would be probed by the NIA.

'End of syndicate raj'

"Banerjee is protesting against me for saying I will set right the goons by hanging them upside down. What should be done then? Should we embrace them?" Shah said. "There will be an end to 'goonda raj' and 'syndicate raj' in Bengal if the BJP forms the government," he said.

UCC, end to goonda raj when BJP comes to power: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

STEPPING up campaign heat on the TMC government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that if the BJP is voted to power in West Bengal, it would implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and end "goonda raj" and "syndicate raj" in the state.

Addressing rallies at Tehatta and Ranaghat in Nadia, Shah alleged that successive Congress governments and TMC under Mamata Banerjee had adopted a soft approach towards terrorism. "During the rule of the Congress and Mamata Banerjee governments, terrorists were being fed biryani. After Narendra Modi became prime minister, India answered terror attacks with surgical strikes and air strikes," Shah said.

Shah accused Banerjee of allowing infiltration and alleged that illegal migrants had been accommodated in the state for political reasons. "These infiltrators are a threat to national security. After May 5, we will identify them one by one and take action," he said.

Shah said criminals had created fear in several parts of the state through bomb attacks and political intimidation, and alleged that the ruling dispensation had failed to act against them. Referring to incidents in Sandeshkhali, RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a law college in south Kolkata and a medical college in Durgapur, Shah said such episodes reflected a deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

"Banerjee is protesting against me for saying I will set right the goons by hanging them upside down. What should be done then? Should we embrace them?" Shah said. "There will be an end to 'goonda raj' and 'syndicate raj' in Bengal if the BJP forms the government. Do not be afraid to come out and vote. The EC has made adequate security arrangements, and nobody will be able to prevent you from casting your vote," he said.

The home minister also took a swipe at Banerjee for saying that women should not be coming out of homes after 7 pm. "You vote BJP to power, and I promise you that after May 5, even a small child will be able to come out of her house at 2 in the night without any fear," he said. Shah said If BJP is voted to power in Bengal, it would set up a special squad to curb cattle smuggling.

3 lakh devotees at Char Dham yatra

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Char Dham Yatra, which commenced on April 19, has witnessed a spectacular start, with an overwhelming surge of devotees flocking to Uttarakhand's Himalayan shrines. While all four shrines have seen significant turnout, Kedarnath attracted over 1.6 lakh pilgrims in the opening days.

According to official data from the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC), the total number of pilgrims who have visited the four shrines—Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath—crossed the 3 lakh mark by Sunday evening. Additionally, over 23.64 lakh devotees have already registered for the pilgrimage.

Hemant Dwivedi, President of the BKTC, confirmed the rising figures, stating, "By 9:00 am on Sunday, the number of pilgrims surpassed 250,000." A breakdown of the footfall reveals 156,913 pilgrims at Kedarnath, 52,225 at Badrinath, 44,335 at Yamunotri, and 44,575 at Gangotri.

Amid the high volume of visitors, temple officials have moved to address concerns circulating on social media regarding mismanagement.

Rajkumar Tiwari, President of the Kedarnath Temple Committee, said that operations have been smooth so far. "It has been three days since the portals of Kedarnath and Bhairavnath opened. Every devotee is receiving the opportunity for smooth darshan," he told this newspaper. He strongly condemned attempts by "disruptive elements" to malign the reputation of the shrine through misleading online campaigns.

Senior member of the Kedarnath Sabha, Umesh Chandra Posti, echoed these sentiments. "Under the guidance of the BKTC and district administration, we have successfully managed over 1.60 lakh visitors so far," Posti noted. He urged pilgrims from across the globe to ignore baseless rumors, asserting that the administration is working round-the-clock. "A token system has been introduced to ensure a faster and more organized darshan experience," he added.

Pilgrims at Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand on Sunday | EXPRESS

'Bulldozer raj' in Bihar begins with CM home

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR chief minister Samrat Choudhary on Sunday said that illegal constructions on government land would be demolished. Addressing a public meeting in Tarapur assembly constituency for the first time after becoming CM, Samrat, said that the administration was even demolishing the stairs of his own house in Tarapur in Munger district.

"A week ago, I received a report that in Tarapur—where my own home is located—the administration is proceeding to demolish even the staircase of my house. The rule is that if the land belongs to a private individual, then there is no issue; however, if a house has been built on government land, it must inevitably be demolished. No one can save it. This is because we have to build a beautiful Bihar... we have to build a developed Bihar," he said.

Chief Minister also warned officers, while announcing that two-day camps would be organised in each panchayat every month to resolve problems of the common people. "If any officer keeps a file with them for more than a month, we will take action against them as well," he told the gathering.

He said that PM dreamt about making Bihar a developed state and his dream had to be fulfilled. He said that his predecessor, Nitish Kumar, had worked for the state's development for a long time, but now this has to be accelerated.

The CM also said that since the condition of the blocks in the state was underwhelming, the Chief Minister's Office would monitor the blocks, circle offices and police stations.

During his interaction with people, he received complaints related to works pending at block officers and police stations across the state.

Samrat took oath as Chief Minister on April 15, replacing Nitish Kumar, who served as CM for nearly 20 years. Nitish had resigned from CM post on April 14, paving way for formation of a new NDA government led by a BJP chief minister.

HPCL says leak in inlet line caused Raj refinery fire, but timeline intact

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

HINDUSTAN Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has confirmed in a statement that the fire at Pachpadra Refinery in Rajasthan's Balotra district on April 20, operated by the cpmpany, was caused by a leak at the pressure gauge tapping point on the inlet line of the Vacuum Residue Exchanger.

The clarification, issued in a statement on social media platform X, puts to rest days of speculation surrounding the cause of the blaze. The company also sought to allay concerns about potential delays to the project, stating that operations will proceed as planned.

The plant was set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 21, and the cause of the fire has since been intensely debated in political circles in the state. Theories for the fire have ranged from simple technical failure to deliberate sabotage.

According to HPCL, however, a detailed investigation has now confirmed the initial assessment that the fire was triggered by a leak at the pressure gauge tapping point on the inlet line of the Vacuum Residue Exchanger. The company clarified that the fire remained confined to the heat exchanger stack, affecting six exchangers and some associated equipment. Importantly, no other auxiliary units were impacted, and these continue to be in an advanced stage of commissioning as per schedule.

HPCL further stated that restoration work has already begun on a war footing following a damage assessment, with completion expected within the next three to four weeks.

Preparations are underway to restart the Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) in the second half of May 2026. In addition, trial production of key products - including LPG, petrol, diesel, and naphtha - is expected to commence within May. Full stabilization and commissioning of units will follow these trials.

Reaffirming its commitment to operational safety and robust emergency response systems, the company said that monitoring of critical and sensitive points will be further strengthened to prevent such incidents.

4 hurt amid rescue after fire on Swiss jet in Delhi

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

FOUR passengers were injured during evacuation after a Swiss International Airlines (SWISS) jet carrying 245, including four infants, aborted takeoff from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport due to a fire in the early hours of Sunday.

A source said the passengers were injured during the evacuation process and are being treated at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. It is not clear how they were injured.

Flight No LX147, bound for Zurich, was about to take off at 1.08 am from runway 10/28 of Terminal 3 with 245 on board, including four infants and 13 crew members, when smoke was detected near a wheel, prompting the pilot to abort takeoff. "The Airbus A330 aircraft was accelerating on the runway for take-off when the pilot detected smoke from the left wheel located at the rear of the plane. He immediately decided to abandon the take-off," the source said.

The airline spokesperson later said an issue occurred with one of the engines during the takeoff. An emergency was declared for 30 minutes at the runway 10/28 in Delhi airport, he added.

Passengers being evacuated from Swiss International Airlines flight | X

AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
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Local body polls: Cong alleges BJP-AAP nexus

During Gujarat's local body elections, Congress launched a fierce attack on both BJP and AAP, turning the campaign into a political showdown. At Congress headquarters, state chief Amit Chavda alleged that the BJP and AAP were "mocking democracy" while pretending to be rivals. He claimed AAP was created to weaken Congress and works as BJP's "B team." Chavda linked past anti-corruption movements to a larger political conspiracy against Congress. Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil also slammed BJP over corruption, inflation, potholes and unemployment. Congress urged voters to press the 'Panja' symbol and send BJP a strong message.

Major IAS reshuffle on the cards post polls

A big administrative upheaval is set to hit Gujarat in May as the state prepares for a sweeping transfer drive after local body elections. Senior IAS officers, district collectors, DDOs, municipal commissioners and department heads are all in the reshuffle line. Officers posted at the same place for over three years are likely to be moved first. Key posts currently handled with additional charge will now get full-time appointments. Political equations after the elections are expected to influence several prime postings. Meanwhile, lobbying has already begun, with some officers racing to secure commissioner posts in newly formed municipal corporations.

Eco-tourism sector likely to get makeover

According to sources, Gujarat's eco-tourism sector is set for a major makeover, with Principal Secretary Vinod Rao reportedly bieng handed a high-stakes mission. The Forest and Environment Department has fixed an ambitious target to raise the revenue from 48 eco-tourism sites from ₹45 crore in two years to a massive ₹150 crore. Officials are now studying South India's successful tourism models for inspiration. Kerala earns ₹3,600 crore from 300 sites, Tamil Nadu ₹1,200 crore from 80 sites, while Karnataka gets ₹280 crore from 35 locations. Gujarat has also begun drafting a fresh eco-tourism policy and identifying high-potential zones for rapid growth.

22 monks
returning from Thailand were arrested at the main airport with 110 kg of cannabis

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Pakistan eases curbs in two cities as talks stall

Trucks with essential supplies enter Islamabad and Rawalpindi; curbs will be re-imposed back if foreign delegates arrive

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN on Sunday eased some restrictions, allowing selective movement of heavy traffic in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as there was no immediate possibility of another round of US-Iran talks.

Pakistan had implemented strict security measures in anticipation of the second round of talks between the US and Iran. More than 10,000 security personnel were deployed, and both Islamabad and Rawalpindi were shut down to manage heavy traffic since last Sunday.

The easing of restrictions came after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left Islamabad on Saturday night without waiting for the arrival of the US negotiators. As he flew out, President Donald Trump cancelled his plans to send US negotiators to Pakistan.

On Sunday, trucks carrying medicines, perishable items and other essential supplies were able to enter the twin cities even as authorities warned of diversion on main roads in case of arrival of any foreign delegates. Police, while easing movement, warned that some of the main roads can be closed while diverting traffic on alternative routes, usually far away from the heart of Islamabad. The deployment of police and other law enforcement personnel remains active, but restrictions on the movement of regular commuters have been relaxed, according to police.

This prompted several universities in the twin cities — conducting online classes in the outgoing week — to announce physical classes from Monday. During his visit, Araghchi met Pakistan's top leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, and shared Tehran's list of demands to permanently end the war, before departing for Oman.

Araghchi termed his visit to Pakistan as "very fruitful". In a post on his X handle, he said Iran very much values Pakistan's good offices and brotherly efforts to bring back peace to the region. Some media reports claimed that Araghchi may return from Oman to Pakistan, apparently to hold talks.

Some local media were quoting Iranian news outlets to say that Araghchi will travel back to Islamabad from Oman and then fly onward to Russia. The war began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, prompting retaliation that spread the conflict across the Gulf. *PTI*

Iran executes man for jihadist links, armed rebellion

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday executed Amer Ramesh, convicted of belonging to Sunni militant group Jaish al-Adl and carrying out bomb and ambush attacks on security forces in Sistan-Baluchestan. Arrested in Chabahar, he was sentenced to death, with the ruling upheld by the Supreme Court. The execution comes amid a spate of wartime hangings during Iran's conflict with Israel and the US.

A traffic police personnel removes barricades from a closed street at the Red Zone area in Islamabad after authorities lifted the heightened security and restrictions imposed in the area ahead of anticipated US-Iran peace talks | AFP

Israel, Hezbollah trade blame over ceasefire violations

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and Hezbollah traded blame over violations of the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon on Sunday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting the Iran-backed militia as both sides claimed new attacks.

WAR WATCH

The accusations came as the foes said they carried out fresh attacks in southern Lebanon, with AFP correspondents reporting residents in heavy traffic heading north to flee an Israeli warning and strikes, while Israel's army reported one soldier killed.

"Hezbollah's violations are, in practice, dismantling the ceasefire," Netanyahu told his weekly cabinet meeting. "We are acting vigorously in accordance with arrangements agreed with the United States and, incidentally, also with Lebanon."

Hezbollah released several statements on Sunday saying its fighters targeted Israeli troops and positions in response to Israeli ceasefire violations and attacks on Lebanese villages, vowing to keep up the attacks.

"The enemy's continued ceasefire violations... and above all its continued occupation of Lebanese territory and violations of its sovereignty will be met with a response and a resistance... to defend its land and people," it said in a statement. Israel's military said Sunday evening that one of its soldiers was killed "during combat" in southern Lebanon, and six were wounded, four of them severely.

Israel ordered evacuations in seven south Lebanon villages, vowing "decisive action" over Hezbollah violations. *AFP*

Smoke rises from targeted areas in the town of Choukîne, in Lebanon Nabatieh province following an airstrike | AFP

Lapid, Bennett join hands to challenge Netanyahu in polls

JERUSALEM: Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid on Sunday said he would join forces with former premier Naftali Bennett for October's elections, aiming to unseat Benjamin Netanyahu. The two will run on a joint list, merging Yesh Atid and "Bennett 2026" into a single party led by Bennett. Both critics of Netanyahu's war handling, they previously formed a coalition in 2021. Polls suggest Bennett is best placed to defeat Netanyahu in the upcoming vote, due by end-October. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, plans to lead Likud again. Lapid briefly served as caretaker premier. The alliance aims to consolidate anti-Netanyahu votes.

Shocking and disturbing: World leaders condemn DC gala shooting

WASHINGTON

WORLD leaders expressed relief on Sunday that Donald Trump and his top officials were unharmed following a shooting incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, asserting that political violence has no place in a democracy.

Trump and other top US officials were evacuated unharmed from the annual dinner of White House correspondents after a man armed with multiple weapons fired shots outside the ballroom of the Washington Hilton hotel on Saturday evening.

Expressing shock at the incident, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that any attack on democratic institutions must be condemned. "I am shocked by the scenes at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington overnight. Any attack on democratic institutions or on the freedom of the press must be condemned in the strongest possible terms," he posted on X.

French President Emmanuel Macron extended his full support to Trump, calling the attack unacceptable. "The armed attack targeting the President of the United States last night is unacceptable. Violence has no place in a democracy. I extend my full support to Donald Trump," he said on social media.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed "full solidarity and most sincere closeness to President Trump, to First Lady Melania, to Vice President Vance" following the incident.

"No political hatred can find space... We will not allow fanaticism to poison free debate... the defence of confrontation must remain a bulwark against intolerance... to safeguard our Nations' values," she posted on X.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who has had frequent run-ins with Trump, described the shooting incident as a "disturbing event".

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also took to social media to condemn the incident, stating he was "deeply shocked" to hear the news. "Relieved to know that President Trump, the First Lady, and other attendees are safe," Sharif said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the incident "an attack on all the democracies." "This wasn't just an attack on Donald Trump. This was an attack on a candidate for the presidency of the United States. This was an attack on America. It was an attack on democracy, it was an attack on all the democracies," he posted on social media. *PTI*

Forensic investigators inspect site of a car bomb that exploded outside Dunmurry police station in South Belfast | AP

'Car bomb' explodes outside Northern Ireland police station

LONDON

POLICE in Northern Ireland have condemned a car-bomb attack on a police station as an attempt to undermine the 1998 agreement that brought peace to the region. The bomb, fashioned from a compressed gas cylinder, exploded as police were evacuating nearby residents in Dunmurry, on the outskirts of Belfast, on Saturday night, Deputy Chief Constable Bobby Singleton told reporters on Sunday.

"This clearly demonstrates that what this type of device may have lacked in terms of its sophistication and scale, it more than made up for in its reckless unpredictability," Singleton said. "For a device like this to have been deployed against police and in such proximity to the public was idiotic. It was absolute madness."

The incident took place at about 10:30 p.m. after the attackers stopped a delivery driver, placed an improvised bomb in his vehicle and ordered him to drive to the police station, Singleton said. Brendan Mullan, chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, said the device "was sent to kill officers and cause maximum harm in an attack which was in the heart of a residential area."

"Such acts of violence have no place in a society committed to peace. We stand united in condemnation of those responsible for this terror, and in voicing support for the work of the officers and staff of the PSNI." It was the second incident at a police station in recent weeks. *AP*

Mali defence minister killed in wave of attacks

BAMAKO

Mali's defence minister died after an attack on his house, his family said Sunday, as the army fought a second day of battles with jihadist fighters and separatist rebels near the capital Bamako and other cities, putting the Sahel nation's ruling junta under severe pressure. Defence Minister Sadio Camara, his second wife and two of his grandchildren died after a car bomb attack on his home in the junta stronghold of Kati, outside Bamako, his family and an official said.

Saturday's shock attacks, synchronised by Tuareg rebels of the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) coalition and the jihadist Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), targeted several areas in the vast arid country. Fighting resumed Sunday in several areas, including Kati, Kidal, Gao and Severe.

Tuareg rebels meanwhile announced an agreement allowing Russian forces backing Mali's army to withdraw from the northern city of Kidal, which they claimed was "totally" under their control.

"An accord has been reached permitting the (Malian) army and its (Russian) Africa Corps allies to leave the camp 2, where they were holed up since yesterday," a Tuareg official told AFP. "We saw a military convoy leave, but don't know the details of what's happening ... Fighters from armed movements have now taken over the streets," a resident added.

FILE: Colonel Sadio Camara, Minister of Defense and Veterans of Mali | AFP

Kidal, a Tuareg stronghold, was retaken in November 2023 by the Malian army backed by Russia's Wagner paramilitary group, ending more than a decade of control by rebels.

The FLA also claims to have taken positions in the northern Gao region. "The aim of the attackers was not to seize and control cities, but to carry out coordinated actions in order to at least capture Kidal, which is a rather powerful symbol," a security source told AFP on Sunday.

Mali has been ravaged for more than a decade by conflict and jihadist violence but Saturday's attacks were the worst since 2020, when the junta seized power. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Russia, N Korea deepen long-term military ties

SEOUL: Russia and North Korea agreed to expand "long-term" military cooperation, Moscow said Sunday during Defence Minister Andrey Belousov's visit to Pyongyang. The two sides plan a 2027–2031 cooperation roadmap. North Korea has sent troops, missiles and munitions for Russia's Ukraine war, while receiving aid and technology. Officials also honoured North Korean soldiers involved in fighting in Russia's Kursk region.

Hindu man found hanging from tree; probe on

DHAKA: A Hindu temple caretaker was found hanging from a tree in southeastern Bangladesh three days after he went missing, police said. Nayan Sadhu, 40, was taken by two men before his body was discovered in Cox's Bazar. Authorities have not confirmed if it was murder or suicide. Minority groups condemned the incident and demanded swift arrests. Police have sent the body for autopsy and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding death.

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

UNESCO HERITAGE PANEL BID PUSH

Culture Minister Fadli Zon held meetings in France to rally support for a 2026–2030 UNESCO intangible heritage committee seat. With Ambassador Mohamad Oemar, he met OIC delegates at UNESCO headquarters, pitching stronger cooperation and community-based protection. He also pushed joint efforts to promote Islamic art globally. Officials from Palestine, Iran, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Uzbekistan and Brunei attended. He said enhanced coordination among Muslim-majority nations could help position culture as a bridge for diplomacy and peace worldwide.

THAILAND

4,000 BAHT AID ROLLOUT PLANNED

Government plans to launch a subsidy scheme offering 1,000 baht monthly for four months, totalling 4,000 baht, pending cabinet approval in May. The programme aims to ease living costs and boost liquidity. Registration is expected in May, with payments via the Paotang app starting June, officials said.

MALAYSIA

FOREIGN MIN TO LEAD ASEAN-EU MEET

Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan will lead a delegation to the 25th Asean–EU Ministerial Meeting in Brunei on April 27–28. Leaders will review progress and shape future cooperation, ahead of the partnership's 50th anniversary in 2027. The meeting is expected to adopt a joint statement reaffirming Asean centrality and deeper collaboration. Bilateral talks with Asean and EU counterparts are also planned on the sidelines of the gathering, officials said. Senior officials will accompany him during the visit. Discussions will also cover regional and global issues of mutual concern.

People gather around a bus hit by an explosive device on the Pan-American Highway in Cajibio, Colombia | AP

Bomb attack on bus kills 13 in Colombia's Cauca region

BOGOTA

AN explosive device killed 13 people traveling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 38 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking in the region escalates.

Octavio Guzman, the governor of the region of Cauca, said on X that the device was set off while the bus was traveling along the Panamerican Highway in the municipality of Cajibio. Five children were among the injured, Cauca Health Secretary Carolina Camargo told Noticias Caracol, a TV news programme. Gen Hugo Lopez, commander of Colombia's Armed Forces,told a news conference that it was a "terrorist act" and blamed the network of a man known as "Ivan Mordisco" — one of Colombia's most wanted figures — and the Jaime Martinez faction. Both are dissidents of the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that operate in the region. Neither Ivan Mordisco nor the Jaime Martinez faction abide by the peace agreement signed with the state in 2016.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro condemned the attack on X. "Those who carried out the attack and killed seven civilians — and wounded 17 others — in Cajibio — many of them Indigenous people — are terrorists, fascists, and drug traffickers," he wrote. *AP*

Strikes kill 16 across Ukraine, Russia as Chernobyl anniv revives nuclear fears

KYIV

STRIKES across Ukraine, Russian-occupied territory and Russia killed at least 16 people, authorities said, as the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster prompted fresh warnings about the risks posed by attacks near the plant during Russia's more than four-year invasion of its neighbor.

The death toll from Russian drone and missile strikes on the city of Dnipro rose to nine, regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said Sunday.

One man was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on the port city of Sevastopol, In Russian-occupied Crimea, Moscow-installed authorities said Sunday. Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, a move that most of the world considered illegal, and has used it as a staging and supply point during the war.

Leonid Pasechnik, the Russia-installed governor in Ukraine's Luhansk region — of which Russia earlier this month said it had taken full control, a claim denied by Ukraine — said three people were killed in an overnight Ukrainian drone strike on a village, after reporting two people were killed in the early hours of Saturday.

People dressed in white protective suits hold candles during a memorial service dedicated to firefighters and workers who died after the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear disaster, ahead of its 40th anniversary in Slavutych, Ukraine | AP

Ukraine did not comment on either attack, which could not be independently verified by The Associated Press.

Strikes followed a woman's death in a Ukrainian drone attack in Russia's Belgorod region, with Ukraine also hitting an oil refinery in Yaroslavl, its military said. *AP*

256.11 GW peak power demand India witnessed on Saturday, which is all-time high, due to an intensifying heat wave

Should investors buy IT stocks on dip?

Experts say trend remains weak with signs of a bottom yet to be seen; many see opportunity at current valuations

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING a tepid Q4FY26 performance, weak management commentary and a slowing order book, IT stocks witnessed one of their steepest selling spree last week, wiping out billions of dollars of investors' wealth.

The Nifty IT sectoral benchmark plunged more than 10% over five sessions, extending its year-to-date decline to 25% as lingering fears regarding AI-driven disruption continue to pressure valuations.

This level of crash has led investors to ponder: Buy the dip, sell or hold off? Experts trace the mounting strain to tepid earnings and conservative outlooks. They believe that from a market perspective, the trend remains weak with signs of a bottom yet to be seen. However, many also believe in an opportunity at current valuations.

INFLECTION POINT

COMPANY	Current price	52-wk high	% down*	P/E Ratio
TCS	2,401	3,630	-34	17.65
Infosys	1,155	1,728	-33	17.11
HCL Tech	1,202.50	1,780	-32	19.6
Wipro	199.5	273	-27	15.87
Tech Mahindra	1,362	1,854	-27	25.13

*from 52-week high

"The weakness is coming from both domestic and global triggers. On one hand, Indian IT companies have reported softer-than-expected results and conservative guidance. On the other hand, sharp declines in global tech stocks, despite decent earnings, have raised concerns around slowing growth and the impact of AI-led disruption," said Apoorva Khandelwal, Associate, IT sector at Anand Rathi Institutional Equity.

He added, "This combination has amplified concerns around near-term growth. Even as companies win large AI-led deals, pricing pressure in traditional services is increasing, leading to what experts describe as 'revenue deflation'."

Vinit Bolinjkar, head of research at Ventura, said the view on the IT sector remains cautious. "Given the revised guidance and macroeconomic challenges, we would advise a cautious approach to Infosys, TCS, and HCL Technologies," added Bolinjkar.

He said that TCS remains relatively stable and shows resilience, especially in digital transformation services, though its growth guidance has been moderated. Infosys and HCL Tech face more immediate challenges, particularly in Europe and telecom, making them less attractive in the near term, stated Bolinjkar.

DSP Mutual Fund in a note said that this is a sector with no price froth, little valuation excess, and a weak business cycle already reflected in prices.

"The IT sector's weight in the Nifty 50 is also near an all-time low, which suggests it is under-owned...Importantly, margins have not yet shown the kind of damage that usually signals real distress. Even in a bear case of zero revenue growth and some margin compression, the downside appears closer to a de-rating toward 13-14x trailing earnings than a collapse in business quality," stated the fund house.

IN CONVERSATION

PIROJSHA GODREJ
Chairperson-designate, Godrej Industries Group

'Aim to be among best performers in every sector we operate in'

GODREJ Industries recently announced its five-year vision to become a ₹5 lakh crore market cap company. To achieve this, the group is planning to list two of its three unlisted businesses – Godrej Capital, Godrej Chemicals and Godrej Ventures. **Pirojsha Godrej**, who is all set to take over as the chairman of the group in August this year, shares with **Dipak Mondal** the company's sharper performance metrics going forward. **Excerpts:**

As you prepare to take over as chairman, are there specific priorities or goals you want to focus on?
I have been part of the group leadership for many years — initially focused on Godrej Properties, and since 2017, playing a broader group role. Over the past five years, we have delivered over 20% growth in sales and earnings. Going forward, we want sharper performance metrics—especially on return on equity—and aim to be among the best performers in every sector we operate in.

You spoke about the vision of ₹5 lakh cr market cap and listing of new companies. Do you plan to enter new sectors?
There are several plans at the individual business level. For example, in FMCG, we have started a pet care business. In ventures, we have launched two new businesses—a film studio business and a managed office business. However, at the group level, our primary focus is on unlocking full potential of the six existing businesses. This includes listing some unlisted businesses and ensuring strong performance from the listed ones.

It's too early to predict impact of AI on job. While there may be short-term disruptions, tech also creates new opportunities. If there are layoffs, office space demand may be affected in the short term. But we need to wait and see how things evolve

You said Godrej Capital will be key growth driver. Will it remain pure-play lending business?
Currently, it is focused on lending, with both an NBFC and a housing finance company. We plan to expand into new lending products — gold loans and personal loans. Currently, we offer housing loans, LAP (loan against property), and business loans. The lending business will expand both geographically and via new product lines.

You currently have three unlisted businesses. Which of these are likely to be listed by 2031?
We have plans to list multiple businesses, but the first two are likely to be financial services and chemicals.

You mentioned infusing ₹5,000–7,000 crore into unlisted businesses. Can you elaborate?
Over the next five years that is the estimated capital requirement for these businesses. Some of it will come from the group, while some will be raised at the business level. Listed companies will raise their own capital.

With new sectors like defence, semiconductors, and electronics manufacturing gaining traction in India, are you considering entering these areas?
Our approach is to bring a modern, future-forward lens to our existing businesses. For instance, our financial services business is investing heavily in AI, tech, and digital capabilities. Similarly, in realty, we are exploring disruptive construction technologies.

How southern realty market did well for Godrej Properties?
The South Zone—Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai—performed exceptionally well this year. In fact, for the first time, it was our top-performing region. Hyderabad has been particularly strong—we entered the market recently and achieved over ₹3,000 crore in sales in the first year itself.

Could AI-driven layoffs impact real estate demand?
It's too early to say. While there may be short-term disruptions, technology also creates new jobs and opportunities. If there are layoffs, office space demand may be affected in the short term. But we need to wait and see how things evolve.

MONEY-WISE

WHAT IS SPECIALISED INVESTMENT FUND?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

SIF- Specialised Investment Funds are a relatively new category of investment products in India, introduced by SEBI around 2024–2025 under the Mutual Funds Regulations. They are a "bridge" product between traditional mutual funds and more sophisticated/high-ticket options like PMS (Portfolio Management Services) and AIFs (alternative investment funds).

SIFs are pooled funds managed by asset management companies (AMCs), but come with a higher minimum investment (₹10 lakh per investor across all SIF strategies of one AMC) and allow advanced, flexible investment strategies that regular mutual funds can't use.

Key features include long-short equity (taking short positions), hedging, tactical/dynamic asset allocation, sector rotation, and greater use of derivatives for alpha generation or risk management.

Advantages of Investing in SIFs - Here are the main reasons sophisticated investors may find SIFs attractive:Access to sophisticated strategies — Fund managers can go long and short, hedge downside risk, and shift allocations. This can generate returns (or protect capital) in both rising and falling markets—something plain equity/debt funds cannot do.

Better risk-adjusted returns potential with downside protection — The ability to short or use derivatives helps reduce volatility compared to pure long-only MFs or direct equity in volatile or bearish phases.

Tax efficiency similar to MFs — Equity-oriented SIFs qualify for LTCG tax at 12.5% (holding >12 months). Internal portfolio rebalancing is tax-efficient (no immediate capital gains tax hit to the investor, unlike PMS) . Debt/other SIFs follow slab or 12.5% LTCG rules depending on equity exposure.

Strong regulatory oversight & investor protection — Fully under SEBI's MF framework daily NAV, higher transparency, and stricter norms than AIFs.

Lower entry barrier than PMS or AIF — Only ₹10 lakh vs ₹0 lakh (PMS) or ₹1 crore+ (AIF), making advanced strategies accessible to a wider set of HNIs/mass-affluent investors.

Professional management + diversification — Expert teams handle complex multi-asset, thematic, credit, or hybrid strategies within a regulated pooled structure.

Many SIFs are open-ended with reasonable exit rules (not as liquid as regular MFs). SIFs carry medium-to-high risk due to advanced strategies, derivatives, and potential for higher volatility/loss of capital. They are not suitable for conservative investors. Always check specific scheme's strategy information document (SID).

Summary of where SIF wins:Vs Direct Equity — You get professional expertise, instant diversification, and tools like shorting/hedging that retail investors can't replicate.

Vs mutual funds — Powerful toolkit for alpha and risk management without sacrificing MF-style regulation and tax treatment.

Vs PMS — Lower minimum, pooled efficiency, potentially lower costs, and better tax efficiency (no pass-through of every trade).

MONEY MATTERS

HOW DOES INDIA'S ECONOMY FIGHT CRISIS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IT is an era of 'polycrisis'. Geopolitical tensions across regions, volatile commodity and financial markets, and supply chain disruptions are all challenging those involved in economic management. Countries are resorting to rationing of essential commodities or food. Risks to the global growth are deepening with rates falling to 3.2% in 2026 from 3.4% in the year-ago period, as per S&P, a global credit ratings agency.

Despite all troubles, India's economy is likely to show resilience. India's growth for the year ahead was estimated at just over 7%, which could fall to 6.8% in an alternate scenario, the agency said. The International Monetary Fund raised its growth outlook for India and lowered it for the US and other countries.

Economic growth is one aspect. A key factor affecting your money is inflation. Faster economic growth is of no use if inflation rate is high. It erodes all the gains on your investment. The Reserve Bank governor, Sanjay Malhotra, made a speech at an event last week. He argued that India's resilience is not an accident. It is by design and built on a philosophy that price stability is the precursor to economic growth.

RBI prioritises anchoring of inflation expectations through a flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework. While the desired inflation rate for sustained economic growth is 4%, the RBI has the flexibility to adjust it by up to 2 percentage points above or below that mark. That system was adopted in 2016 when Raghuram Rajan was the RBI governor. That has worked through crises like COVID and global supply chain disruptions.

India's average headline inflation has dropped to 4.7% (September 2016 to December 2025), down from 7.4% in the years prior (April 2012 to August 2016), Malhotra said.

While managing inflation, price stability was maintained through the robustness of the banking sector. The problem of bad loans that plagued India's banking sector has declined significantly, and banks now have stronger balance sheets, enabling them to lend to individuals and businesses. RBI also made adequate interventions in the foreign exchange and gold markets to ensure that the volatility in the currency markets didn't get out of hand.

The governor explained that the RBI worked in tandem with the government, which is responsible for the fiscal policy. In India, inflation is influenced by supply-side factors. The government has taken strong steps by boosting infrastructure spending to build new roads, highways, and bridges, and by supporting the movement of goods. Adequate provisions were made over the years to boost agricultural infrastructure and output as food supply shocks influence inflation rates. Strengthening storage and supply chain infrastructure assumes significance.

The RBI governor explained that during the current crisis, the government took steps to boost domestic oil and gas production and diversify energy sources via investments, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The central government's fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio fell to 4.4% in 2025-26 from 9.2% in 2020-21. India's general government debt-to-GDP ratio is reasonable, with the world's top 10 economies (by nominal GDP in USD), excluding Germany and Russia, having higher debt ratios than India.

What it means to your money

Inflation is the biggest enemy of your money. If you are keen to manage your wealth, you need to understand the factors that influence inflation. To ensure adequate wealth, those managing the economy have to do their jobs efficiently.

The RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra's speech is a good explanatory note. The speeches delivered by the RBI governor and deputy governors at various forums are published on the RBI website. It is not possible for you to track a voluminous amount of information that determines the future inflation rate.

EXPRES ILLUSTRATION

Iran war: Domino's cuts down on menu

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

SEVERAL Domino's Pizza outlets across Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad have reduced serving garlic bread and tacos, not due to lack of demand but because of a packaging crunch linked to recent petroleum product supply disruptions affecting parent Jubilant FoodWorks.

At a store in Bommanahalli, Bengaluru, the issue was explained to a customer who ordered Garlic bread and Tacos. The employee said: "We are not serving those items because we do not have the appropriate packaging boxes. We are also not accepting online orders for them. While we could offer them in alternative packaging, it would not be properly structured. We can't do that for all orders, as it would lead to shortages of those boxes as well."

Disruptions caused by supply constraints

The disruption comes weeks after the company flagged LPG shortages impacting parts of its network, driven by supply constraints linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Jubilant FoodWorks acknowledged on April 8 that limited LPG availability affected some stores

Similar responses have been reported across multiple outlets, pointing to a supply-chain bottleneck that goes beyond kitchen operations and into last-mile packaging.

At the Domino's Pizza store on Velachery Main Road, Chennai, an employee said: "We have had to reduce serving garlic bread because the boxes are not available due to LPG production shortages. Vendors are not able to manufacture many boxes, and we are prioritising pizzas over smaller boxes. Even if ingredients are in stock, without proper packaging, we cannot send these items out, especially for delivery."

The boxes used for garlic bread and similar items are typically made from corrugated board, which is produced using kraft paper, adhesives and printing inks. While the base material is paper, several inputs in the manufacturing process, including inks, coatings and some chemicals, are derived from crude oil.

Responding to TNIE queries, the company said there is no specific information to share at the moment, apart from the fact that its LPG dependency is reducing as it shifts towards alternative energy. It added that LPG-related disruptions were limited to certain areas during Q4 FY26 and that "operations are now back to normal levels."

India, NZ to sign FTA today; duty-free access, mobility, investment in focus

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA and New Zealand are set to sign a much-awaited free trade agreement (FTA) on Monday, marking a significant milestone in bilateral economic ties and broadening cooperation beyond merchandise trade into mobility, investment, education and traditional medicine.

Ahead of the formal signing in New Delhi, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay on Sunday held an industry interaction in Agra, pitching the agreement as a "comprehensive partnership" rather than a conventional tariff-cutting pact.

The agreement, concluded in a record nine months since negotiations were launched in March 2025, is expected to provide duty-free access for 100% of Indian exports to New Zealand, including key labour-intensive sectors such as leather and footwear. Officials said the pact will cover market access, agricultural productivity, investment facilitation, talent mobility, tourism and people-to-people ties, while opening fresh opportunities for Indian MSMEs, professionals and students.

Speaking at the industry outreach, Goyal urged businesses to look beyond tariff gains and tap opportunities in education, sports, pharma, AYUSH and investment under the agreement. McClay described the pact as among the "highest quality" FTAs signed by New Zealand and reaffirmed India's strategic importance. The run-up to the signing saw strong interest from industry, mainly from Agra's leather and footwear sector, which accounts for nearly 75% of India's leather footwear production.

With tariffs on leather and footwear exports to New Zealand set to drop from 5% to zero, the industry sees the pact helping support ambitions to scale the sector to $50 billion by 2030 through higher-value manufacturing and global sourcing.

ISSF Jr WC: Hemant bags silver as India finish on top

Hemant Burman won silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions and the pair of Zuhair Khan and Addya Katyal won bronze in trap mixed team event as India completed the ISSF Junior World Cup in Cairo, Egypt on top of the table with a total of 16 medals including five gold, six silver and five bronze.

DELHI SEEK TURNAROUND

As Delhi Capitals face second-placed Royal Challengers Bengaluru at home, here are a few talking points...

Kohli's homecoming

While KL Rahul helped DC win in his home ground i.e Bengaluru, this could be Virat Kohli's turn to return the favour. The ever so consistent batter will be turning up on his home turf at the Arun Jaitley Stadium and expect him to continue the good form. Will be interesting to see if Axar Patel brings himself on early against Kohli.

Aiming to avoid mid-table clutter

A win on Monday could take Delhi, who have six points so far, to fifth. The mid-table is currently crowded and each win matters for teams like Delhi to get out of it and gain some momentum as the the second half of the tournament is here. Coming out of the shock they received at the hands of PBKS will be crucial.

357 Rahul is the third-highest scorer so far this season with a tally of 357 in seven matches. Kohli, meanwhile, is the sixth (328 in seven matches) in the scoring charts so far.

DC vs RCB, New Delhi, 7.30 PM
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar

CSK CAUGHT OFF GUARD YET AGAIN

Five-time winners struggle to read conditions as they go down against Titans at Chepauk

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

WHEN Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill won the toss and elected to bowl first at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday, it brought a surprise of sorts. With the pitch — a mixture of black and red soil — seemingly having cracks, being asked to bat first did not seem bad at all. Chennai Super King's skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad at the toss also explained the pitch as 'dry.' "It's a bit on the drier side and more often than not, it will remain the same. We have to start assessing how the pitch is, bat accordingly, and then try and defend it," he told the broadcaster.

However, little did they know that the pitch would throw them off. Under the baking sun, it seemed as if the pitch had some dampness which offered extra bounce for the pacers. And the bowling troika of Mohammed Siraj, Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder made the most of it to rattle Super Kings batters. Early on, Rabada did not have the best of starts, bowling deliveries between length and back of lengths to CSK opener Sanju Samson. And he duly got punished. . Then in the third over, Rabada continued to bowl those lengths to keep Samson on his toes, before the wicketkeeper-batter nicked a wider delivery to Jos Buttler.

With Urvil Patel coming to make his first appearance this season, it was important for him to get a good start. And he seemed to get going, slamming the first ball off Rabada for four. The South African responded with 149 KPH delivery on hard length which Patel mis-timed. Buttler did the rest as he always does. By now, Rabada kept the crowd – which was around 30,000 at the time of the first innings – largely quiet. In the end, CSK could only manage 158/7, which was not enough as Titans got across the line.

CSK batter Shivam Dube gets out against GT in Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming admitted that the conditions caught him by surprise. "It was very tough to bat in the first innings. They GT (bowlers) bowled well, they extracted extra bounce. There was moisture in it, due to the heat, and they were able to extract some uneven bounce and create some problems for us and we just couldn't get momentum until the last three or four overs, so some of it was self-induced. We just couldn't get a grasp on that wicket," he told reporters in the post-match press conference.

That the pitch offered uneven bounce and movement added to Fleming's surprise because of the fact that it 'spun' in their previous home game, where they beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 32 runs. "We were expecting something similar but it was a little bit different to that," he said. Skipper Gaikwad had sung from the same hymn sheet earlier during the chat with the broadcasters.

However, this is not the first time it has happened. In their first match, CSK struggled to adapt to pacy conditions in Guwahati. Over the last couple of years, they have not felt at home in flatter conditions in Chennai. Now, having a team that is crowded with top-order batters, Chennai has once again fallen short at the slightest sign of challenge in conditions. What is more worrying is Fleming saying that they thought the pitch would get slower and the score was competitive. "We actually thought 160 was competitive, but we just couldn't extract the same amount, so obviously it dried out, there was a change, it was going to get slower, we just couldn't extract the same type of assistance as what they did in the first 10 overs," added the coach.

It is the kind of belief that led to them subbing out Sarfaraz Khan instead of a bowler once they lost two early wickets. Panic set in and they ended up falling short on the bowling side of things. "The security needed to have an extra bowler or an extra batter, and when it's nipping around and a little bit of bounce, then we had to make a call pretty early to try and extend the batting order," Fleming said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

GT's B Sai Sudharsan scored 87 off 46 balls against CSK on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Opener Sudharsan, bowlers power GT

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

A PUNISHING half-century by B Sai Sudharsan (87) and Kagiso Rabada's penetrative bowling (3/25 in 4 overs) came in handy for Gujarat Titans to beat Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets in their IPL match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. Set a target of 159 to win, the visitors achieved the same with 3.2 overs to spare.

GT captain Shubman Gill was aware that the target was achievable and thus played with a lot of confidence. He set the tempo by scoring effortlessly off all the CSK bowlers and his boundaries came off from the meat of the blade. When well set for a half-century, he was done in by a change of pace as he fell to the guile of the accurate Noor Ahmad, to be stumped by Sanju Samson. By then Gill and Sai Sudharsan had added 58 runs for the first wicket.

After that Sai Sudharsan took control of the proceedings and along with Jos Buttler stitched a good stand worth 97 runs in 60 balls for the second wicket, that helped the visitors win in style. "I feel very grateful, to be honest, and coming back home, I'm very happy. I don't have a lot of words to say, but overwhelmed and really enjoyed the crowd today, I was very happy playing at home. To be honest, just getting the confidence from the last innings and keeping this innings as fresh as possible, not thinking that we have got runs or not got runs the way we are feeling. I'm trying to look at it as just a confidence point where I can take some from the last innings and use it for the next innings. I'm not looking whether I'm scoring or not. Just looking at how the game played out," said Sai Sudharsan after the match.

"I felt it (conditions in the second innings) slightly got better, but the first six overs still it was a little difficult to play with. First few innings I was not in the best rhythm, but once I got the rhythm, it is happening naturally," he added.

A single to backward square leg off Noor ringed in Sai's 50. But the pick of Sai's innings was a six off a short one from Akeal Hosein, where he had the time to kneel down and slog it into the stands over fine leg. This six also brought about the 50-run partnership between him and Buttler. Sai once again showed his class by carting Noor straight over the bowler's head for a six into the sight screen. This six showed his confidence, timing and sense of shot selection, which the CSK top order lacked. For CSK, barring Ruturaj Gaikwad, who remained unbeaten on 74 off 60 balls, none of the batters showed intent and all got out due to poor shot selection.

Brief scores: CSK 158/7 in 20 ovs (Ruturaj 74 n.o; Rabada 3/25, Arshad 2/43) **lost to** GT 162/2 in 16.4 ovs (Sai Sudharsan 87, Buttler 39 n.o). **Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Rinku steps up to steal show as Kolkata triumph in Super Over

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A FIFER. A rescue act. And a Super Over. It was a contest that had it all as Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants delivered box office entertainment on Sunday. The last laugh, however, was had by Rinku Singh and Sunil Narine as Kolkata walked away with two points in Lucknow.

It was the aforementioned two men who stole the show for Kolkata and with good reason. After Mohsin Khan took a fifer (5/23) to reduce KKR to 93/7, Rinku (83 n.o) and Narine got together, taking the team to 155/7.

With Narine, Rinku built a partnership to take KKR past the 100-run mark. Later, he exploded in the death, going from 43 off 40 to 83 off 51 balls, including four consecutive sixes in the final over of the innings from Digvesh Rathi.

KKR made dents with early wicket of Mitchell Marsh, but Rishabh Pant and Aiden Markram tried to rebuild. However, they fell in quick succession with LSG stuttering at 78/3. From thereon, the 2024 winners kept pegging away with wickets and it seemed like they were on their way to an easy win. But Mohammed Shami (11 n.o from 6 balls), with some help from Kartik Tyagi who bowled two no balls in the final over, took the chase into first Super Over of the season. From 17 off six balls, it came down to seven off one when Shami launched Tyagi into the stands.

In the Super Over, Narine stepped up. He delivered two wickets in three balls and as a result KKR needed two runs to win. Fittingly, Rinku hit Prince Yadav for four in the very first ball to finish the match. **Brief scores:** KKR 155/7 in 20 ovs (Rinku 83 n.o; Mohsin 5/23) **tied with** LSG 155/8 in 20 ovs (Pant 42, Arora 2/24). **KKR won in Super Over.**

Rinku Singh (L) and Sunil Narine were the heroes of the night for KKR | BCCI

EXPRESS READ

SC Delhi held in ISL

NEW DELHI: Mohammedan Sporting Club came from behind twice to secure a 2-2 draw against Sporting Club Delhi in their Indian Super League match here on Sunday. The result means Mohammedan pick up their third consecutive point, taking their tally to three from ten matches.

Gauff beats Cirstea

MADRID: Coco Gauff became the latest victim of the stomach virus that has been sweeping through the draw at the Madrid Open but the ailing American still found a way to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday and reach the Round of 16.

Bhullar, Pukhraj T26th

SINGAPORE: Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar had a disappointing final round at the International series Singapore as he finished the event with 2-over 73 and at Tied-26th. Pukhraj Singh Gill shot his best score of the week to join Bhullar in T-26th spot.

Uber Cup: Sindhu & Co sink Ukraine to stay alive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA women shuttlers posted a much-needed group stage win over Ukraine to keep their Uber Cup campaign alive late on Saturday. –Youngsters Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma and Devika Sihag won their respective singles ties to help the team take an unassailable lead at Horsens, Denmark. All of them were challenged thoroughly by their respective opponents. Tanvi, in fact, lost a game but bounced back to clinch her match.

Later, Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi lost the women's doubles contest but the combination of Tanisha Crasto and PV Sindhu won the fifth and final tie to help India win by 4-1 scoreline. In the opening match, India had lost 2-3 against Denmark. In their final group match, India will face China on Monday.

Tanvi Sharma | BADMINTON PHOTO

China, who beat Denmark 5-0 on the day, boast players like Wang Zhi Yi (World No 2), 2020 Olympic gold medallist Chen Yu Fei and it's going to take a miracle for the Indians to get something out of the match.

Results: India **bt** Ukraine 4-1 (Unnati Hooda bt Polina Buhrova 21-19, 22-20; Tanvi Sharma bt Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-12, 17-21, 21-10; Devika Sihag bt Mariia Stoliarenko 23-21, 21-13; Kavipriya Selvam/Simran Singhi lost to Buhrova/Kantemyr 11-21, 17-21; Tanisha Crasto/Sindhu bt Sofiia Lavrova/Stoliarenko 21-18, 21-15).

Truck driver's daughter sets NR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

DAUGHTER of an Uttar Pradesh truck driver has made Madhya Pradesh proud by creating a national record at the ongoing 24th National Junior U20 Federation Athletics in Tumkur (Karnataka). Still two and a half months shy of 17, Ranjana Yadav, who is counted among one of the most promising athletes at the MP State Athletics Academy, Bhopal, clocked 23:22.12 to win the 5000 meters race walk event and shatter the existing record of 23:43:58 held by Rajasthan's Manisha. The Rajasthan athlete finished third in the race.

This is the first national record set by the talented teenage racewalker, who hails from Chaubeypur area of UP's Varanasi district. "I was targeting gold, but the tough competition offered by strong contenders made me push harder and eventually the national record was created," Ranjana told this daily over phone. She credited her coach Shiv Kumar Prasad and parents — late mother Urmila Yadav and father Rajkumar Yadav — for her performance.

Ranjana Yadav (R) with coach Shiv Kumar Prasad after winning the 5000 meters race walk gold

The national record was set by Rajnana, just six months after she won her maiden international medal, finishing second in the final of the 5000 meters race walk at the 3rd Asian Youth Athletics Championship in Bahrain in October 2025. Ranjana, who aims to make it big in the racewalk arena for fulfilling dreams of her mother (who passed away just a day before Ranjana's 15th birthday in July 2024) and ensuring that her father does not have to drive trucks in UP one day to repay mounting debts, felt that her performance in Tumkur will boost her confidence for future Asian and World Junior tourneys.

"Though I won the racewalk in Tumkur with a new national record, still it's below the high qualifying mark set for the next Asian Junior Championship and the World Junior Athletics. This will boost my confidence and motivate me to work harder and fulfil my dreams of winning major medals for the country internationally," she added. MP State Athletics Academy's chief coach Prasad felt that Ranjana is moving in the right direction.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Rodrigue Kwizera | KEVIN NASHON

Kwizera and Niyonkuru win World 10K titles

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Bengaluru

THE TCS World 10K, a World Athletics Gold Label Race, has become a social fabric of the city and that was evident on its 18th iteration on Sunday evening. Over 35000 participants, across various categories, came together as a collective to embrace the challenge.

An event that has increasingly seen a world-class athletes showcase their talents, it was the turn of Rodrigue Kwizera (International men's) and Florence Niyonkuru (international women's) as they won first place. Niyonkuru, the immensely talented Rwandan touted to vie for global glory in the years to come, took the tape with the clock reading 30:45.

Meanwhile, there was drama to in the men's finish. Kwizera, who was part of the minor podium placings in 2023, had vowed to come back and be champion. He lived up to that prophecy, finishing in 27:31. "The challenge was the heat," Kwizera said in the post-race press conference. "I have been training in Spain and it's much cooler this time of the year there. I told myself after 5K I will push. And then again in the final 1K. Yes, I wanted to go for the event record, so I am glad that I did it".

Winners: International Men: Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi) 0.27.31; International Women: Florence Niyonkuru (Rwanda) 0.30.45.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Barcelona beat Getafe 2-0, get one step closer to La Liga title

Barca's Fermin Lopez celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Getafe | AFP

AGENCIES @ Getafe

FERMIN Lopez and Marcus Rashford's goals took Barcelona to the brink of the La Liga title with a 2-0 win at Getafe on Saturday.

Later on Atletico Madrid edged Athletic Bilbao 3-2 to build confidence before their Champions League semifinal battle with Arsenal.

Defending Spanish champions Barca moved 11 points clear of second place Real Madrid, who drew at Real Betis on Friday to dent their hopes of finishing the season with a trophy. Hansi Flick's side can win their second consecutive Spanish title if they overcome Osasuna next weekend and Real Madrid fail to beat Espanyol.

"It's not done, we have five more games and we're only focussed on the next one," Flick told reporters.

"We will celebrate when it's time, but not now."

Barcelona were without vital injured wingers Lamine Yamal and Raphinha but still did enough to see off Jose Bordalas's tricky side, sixth, in the Madrid suburbs. "We know we've got a big advantage (in the title race) but even so, we can't relax, I know it's a cliche but it's the truth," said Lopez.

Getafe set out to disrupt Barcelona's rhythm with small fouls and Barca struggled to create many clear opportunities. They made the breakthrough just before half-time when Pedri played in Lopez, who slotted home. The midfielder imitated Yamal's usual "304" celebration in tribute to the injured teenage star.

"The truth is he's really important for us, it's a shame that he can't play any more, but the important thing is that he recovers well and is ready for the World Cup," added Lopez.

Chelsea enter FA Cup final

LONDON: Enzo Fernandez fired Chelsea into the FA Cup final against Manchester City as the Argentine sealed a 1-0 win against Leeds in the Blues' first match after Liam Rosenior's sacking. Fernandez's first-half header in Sunday's semifinal at Wembley was an ironic twist after another farcical chapter in Chelsea's turbulent recent history.

Head of referees under probe

MILAN: The head of referees for Serie A and Serie B has temporarily stepped aside after being placed under investigation by prosecutors in Milan for "sporting fraud". Gianluca Rocchi said in a statement released on Saturday that he has decided to "suspend himself" from his role as the man who assigns referees to matches in Italy's top two divisions.

BPSC MAINS
Date: April 27, 28, 29, 30, 2026

NEET-UG
Date: May 3 2026

IPMAT (IIM INDORE)
Date: May 4, 2026

Rising mercury upends timetables

Schools adjust schedules as heatwave conditions intensify across states

ANGELA MARY THOMAS

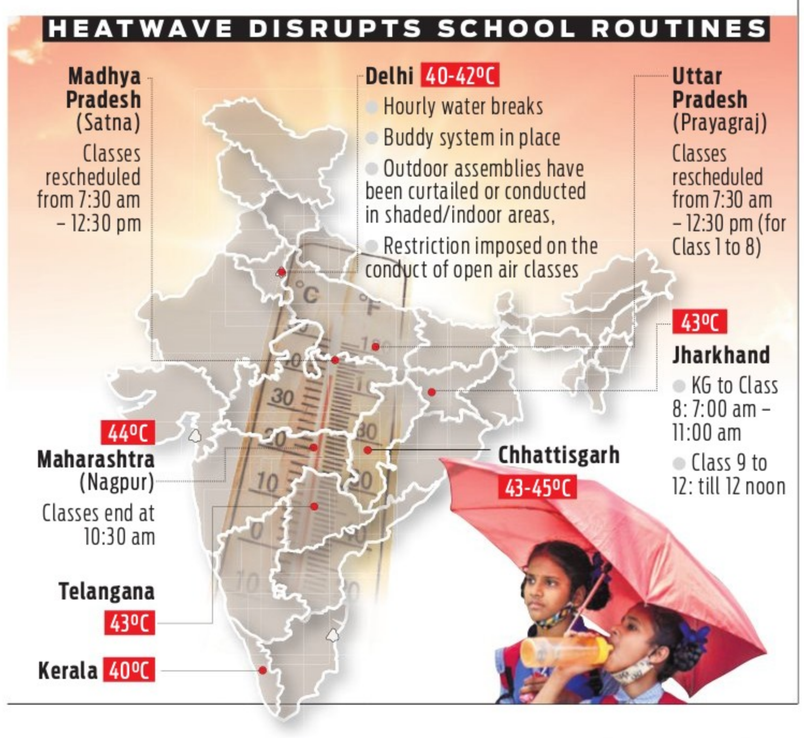
INDIA is currently witnessing a steady rise in extreme heat conditions across regions, with temperatures exceeding 40°C and reaching up to 44°C in several areas. From Uttar Pradesh to Kerala, state governments have issued precautionary measures to safeguard students' health, as rising temperatures begin to disrupt school schedules, exam timings, and academic calendars. "Following the weakening of La Niña, a neutral phase has set in, with no strong system moderating temperatures," said Dr GS Srinivasa Reddy, former director of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). "This allows heat to build more easily. With El Niño conditions likely to develop in the coming months, temperatures could remain elevated, further intensified by climate change and urban factors."

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of a climate pattern driven by changes in Pacific Ocean temperatures and winds. El Niño brings warmer conditions and below-normal rainfall in India, while La Niña has a cooling effect and greater precipitation. A similar climatic phase in 2015 led to one of India's deadliest heatwaves, with over 2,500 deaths due to heatstroke and dehydration. During that period, a "super El Niño" brought prolonged dry conditions, with minimal rainfall and sustained heat. A comparable pattern is now emerging across regions.

heat wave

The disruption is already visible on the ground, with schools shortening hours, rescheduling exams, and, in some cases, shutting entirely. "The one-policy-fits-all approach is not effective in dealing with extreme weather conditions. The education sector, in particular, requires region-specific action," says Dr Puviarasan, Scientist at India Meteorological Department. Climatically, pre-monsoon heatwaves are common, lasting three to four days. However, these events are becoming more intense and prolonged, leading to the formation of local heat islands amid climate change and global warming.

"Scaling renewable energy, reducing fossil fuel dependence, and cutting emissions remain critical. Immediate mitigation, however, depends on increasing green cover and strengthening water conservation," Dr Puviarasan added. "In schools with limited access to air conditioning, planting trees and running green drives offer practical solutions for managing the heat." Beyond the immediate health impact, heatwaves are also pushing children towards increased screen time and reduced physical activity, affecting their overall development. Alongside institutional measures, parents should play a role in keeping children active by encouraging indoor activities, hobbies, and skill-based learning.


HEATWAVE DISRUPTS SCHOOL ROUTINES
Madhya Pradesh (Satna)
Classes rescheduled from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm
Delhi 40-42°C
Hourly water breaks
Buddy system in place
Outdoor assemblies have been curtailed or conducted in shaded/indoor areas,
Restriction imposed on the conduct of open air classes
Uttar Pradesh (Prayagraj)
Classes rescheduled from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm (for Class 1 to 8)
43°C
Jharkhand
KG to Class 8: 7:00 am – 11:00 am
Class 9 to 12: till 12 noon
44°C
Maharashtra (Nagpur)
Classes end at 10:30 am
Chhattisgarh
43-45°C
Telangana
43°C
Kerala 40°C

NEET-UG 2026 PANIC COSTS MARKS

As the prestigious medical entrance exam draws closer, NEET experts remind aspirants to keep their heads cool, preparation steady, and spirits high for optimal results

NEET-UG 2026 in a snapshot

Duration: 3 hours, **Questions:** 180, **Physics:** 45, **Chemistry:** 45

Biology (Botany): 45, **Biology (Zoology):** 45

Total marks 720

Mode: Pen & paper, MCQs

Sessions: Single session

Medium: English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Urdu, etc.

Right now, not getting a good rank may feel like the end of the world, but it will not feel as heavy 10 years from now. Focus on doing your best instead of fixating on the result.

Kapil Gupta, CEO, NEETPrep

MIND THE RULES: NTA's guidelines for candidates

Reporting time: Reach the centre 30 minutes before the exam begins

Mandatory documents: Admit card with photo attached, passport-size photo, valid photo ID, PwD certificate (if applicable)

Dress code: Light clothing with half sleeves; no large brooches, buttons or badges; open footwear like slippers or sandals

Religious attire: Candidates should report 1 hour early

Banned items: Mobile phones, smart watches, earphones, wallets, handbags, caps, jewellery, stationery, eatables, loose papers, study material

KARTHIKEYA S

JUST one week remains for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate 2026 (NEET-UG 2026), placing aspirants in the most decisive stretch of their preparation journey. The exam, which acts as the gateway to undergraduate medical, dental, and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) programmes in India, is slated for May 3.

Experts say the next seven days should focus on smart revision, exam strategy, and staying mentally composed for one of the country's most competitive entrance tests.

"At this stage, students should shift from trying to cover gaps in their syllabus to optimising their performance in the exam," says Kapil Gupta, CEO and co-founder of NEETPrep, an online platform dedicated to helping aspirants prepare for the undergraduate medical entrance exam. That means sharpening recall, improving accuracy, and ensuring the mind and body are ready for the three-hour test, he says.

Revision over new topics

According to Gaurav Tyagi, NEET counsellor and director of Career Xpert, a career guidance company focusing on medical entrance exams, the most common mistake in the last week is starting untouched chapters or chasing too many resources.

"Revising familiar topics is more effective than starting new ones," he says. According to him, Biology aspirants should spend as much time as possible revising diagrams, tables, and definitions, as the subject carries the highest weightage in NEET-UG. For Chemistry, students should divide time among Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, along with key Physical Chemistry formulae and numericals. For Physics, Tyagi suggests focusing on formulae and practising numerical questions repeatedly.

"Students weak in any of these subjects should avoid panic and instead revise core chapters they can solve confidently," he advises.

Strengthening speed & accuracy

As students revise familiar material gathered over months, Gupta says the last week should also focus on improving speed and paper-solving strategy. "This is the right time to work out a strategy that suits you best," he says.

real talk

He suggests aspirants solve mock tests in exam-like conditions and analyse their mistakes. "Where are you making mistakes, and why? It is important to know these patterns, so that you enter the exam much more confident and prepared," he says.

He reminds students that NEET-UG performance also depends on approach and accuracy while attempting the paper. Mistakes under pressure or poor strategy can lead to negative marking and cost marks that students should worry about.

Keeping a cool head

Both experts stress the importance of not succumbing to pressure during the exam.

"Students, especially repeaters, carry the weight of family expectations and the pressure of securing a good rank. Most know their families cannot afford seats in private colleges if they get low ranks," Gupta explains.

He suggests aspirants stay away from negative influences until the exam is over. "Do not get into fights or arguments. Do not compare your preparation with friends. Do not worry about topics you could not cover. You have to maintain your peace of mind and stay confident in your preparation," he says.

To stay positive, Tyagi suggests students watch motivational content and gradually reduce study hours as the exam draws closer. "Currently, you should be studying for seven to eight hours a day, and four hours the day before the exam."

Both experts advise students to get enough sleep on the eve of NEET-UG and avoid revising late into the night or until the last minute.

Cold feet on D-Day?

Even if students are well prepared, experts warn that they might get stuck during the exam.

"They might not remember the answer immediately, or spend too much time on a difficult question, causing them to worry and lose track of the exam. My colleagues and I call it the Abhimanyu Effect," Gupta says.

He reminds students not to give in to this, as it can derail performance. "I often tell my students that panicking costs them 50 marks in the exam," he says.

To avoid this, Tyagi advises students to attempt questions based on ease and their strengths. "Solve the questions you find the easiest. Then tackle the moderately easy ones. You can leave difficult questions unsolved, as you don't want to risk negative marking," he explains. A steady approach works better than rushing through the paper.

Gupta also reminds students not to let their performance or rank demoralise them in the long run. "Your NEET scores are not the end of the road. If not MBBS, you can also have fulfilling careers in pharmacy, dentistry, and other fields. This is one path in front of you, not the only one," he says.

THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING

May 3, 1913

India's film economy begins to take form

113 years ago, Raja Harishchandra, India's first full-length feature film, was released in Mumbai. It opened cinema as a lasting employment field, spanning production, editing, sound, criticism, archiving, restoration, and screenwriting.

April 27, 1934

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGISTERED

92 years ago, the Indian Academy of Sciences was registered to promote scientific progress in India. It began with 65 Fellows, giving Indian research a national platform when infrastructure was still limited. Such academies continue to support publication, peer recognition, and research careers.

May 3, 1971

INDIA GETS AN S&T BACKBONE FOR INNOVATION

55 years ago, the Department of Science and Technology was established as a nodal science-and-technology agency. Its work in supporting institutions, national S&T activity, schemes, and programmes continues to matter for grants, fellowships, deep-tech support, and science-policy careers.

April 30, 1993

CERN MAKES THE WEB OPEN FOR GLOBAL ACCESS

33 years ago, CERN placed the Web software in the public domain after creating it for information sharing among scientists. That decision helped the Web grow freely. Today, journal access, online portfolios, job applications, and digital learning depend on that open foundation.

April 30, 2012

TECHNICAL-EDUCATION EXPANSION BILLS PASS

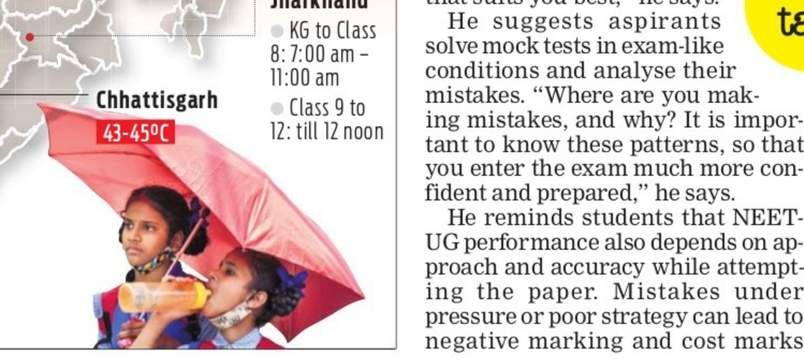
14 years ago, the Rajya Sabha passed amendments adding eight new IITs, bringing BHU's Institute of Technology into the IIT framework, and recognising five IISERs as institutions of national importance. It widened nationally branded science and engineering pathways beyond the oldest metros.

TEACHERS ON ELECTION DUTY

What does it take, and what does it take away?

EVERY election season, school teachers are pulled from classrooms and into the demanding world of electoral administration. Though the system depends heavily on their involvement, teachers say this arrangement often comes at the cost of teaching continuity and school operations. Sneha (name changed upon request), an assistant English teacher at a government girls' school in West Bengal, says the effect is structural rather than incidental, particularly when election duties overlap with classes and evaluations. "Teachers aren't trained for administrative work, and without proper preparation, it becomes a challenge. It affects students' learning and pulls us away from our core responsibilities," she says, further noting that when schools double up as training centres or polling booths, it puts additional strain on already tight academic schedules.

The transition from teacher to election worker is not just logistical but psychological, often requiring teachers to step outside the institutional identity of the school. Manisha (name changed), an assistant Economics teacher with nearly two decades of experience in election duty, says she began preparing for the responsibilities of presiding and polling officers after receiving her training letter about a month ago.



Teachers feel there is a need for better-trained systems and streamlined operations, even as they continue to view their role as a civic duty within democracy

"While mentally revising all those tasks, I hardly noticed when I transitioned from being a teacher to becoming an election worker," she says. "When doing election duty, we represent the commission, not the school," adds Sneha, summing up the formal change in role that begins well before polling day. Despite the pressure, both teachers say they see election duty as part of their responsibility as government employees and citizens.

Manisha also points to the design of election duty training modules as a key concern, saying the sessions are sometimes led by facilitators with little or no field experience, making it difficult to address practical complexities on the ground. She adds that training would be more effective if conducted by those who have previously handled election duties. Another challenge comes to the forefront on polling day itself. Sneha describes working long hours in extreme summer heat, often with inadequate seating. She adds that logistical support, including food and basic infrastructure, can be limited, making the experience physically draining.

There is a need, they say, for a more streamlined, technology-enabled electoral process that minimises procedural complications and ensures better working conditions. While teachers are key to the smooth operation of elections, their experiences raise a troubling question: how long can the education system continue with a model where those shaping young minds are continuously diverted to keep the machinery of democracy itself running?

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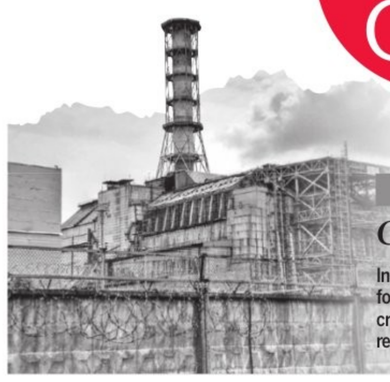
MONDAY



DAY'S DIARY

Chernobyl tragedy

In 1986, Pripyat was evacuated following the Chernobyl disaster, creating the 'ghost town' that remains a haunting destination

EVACUATION

By May 14, 116,000 people had been evacuated and later relocated. About 1,000 of them returned unofficially to live within the contaminated zone

LOOPHOLES

The accident resulted from the combination of a reactor design with inherent control problems and the disregard of safety procedures by operators

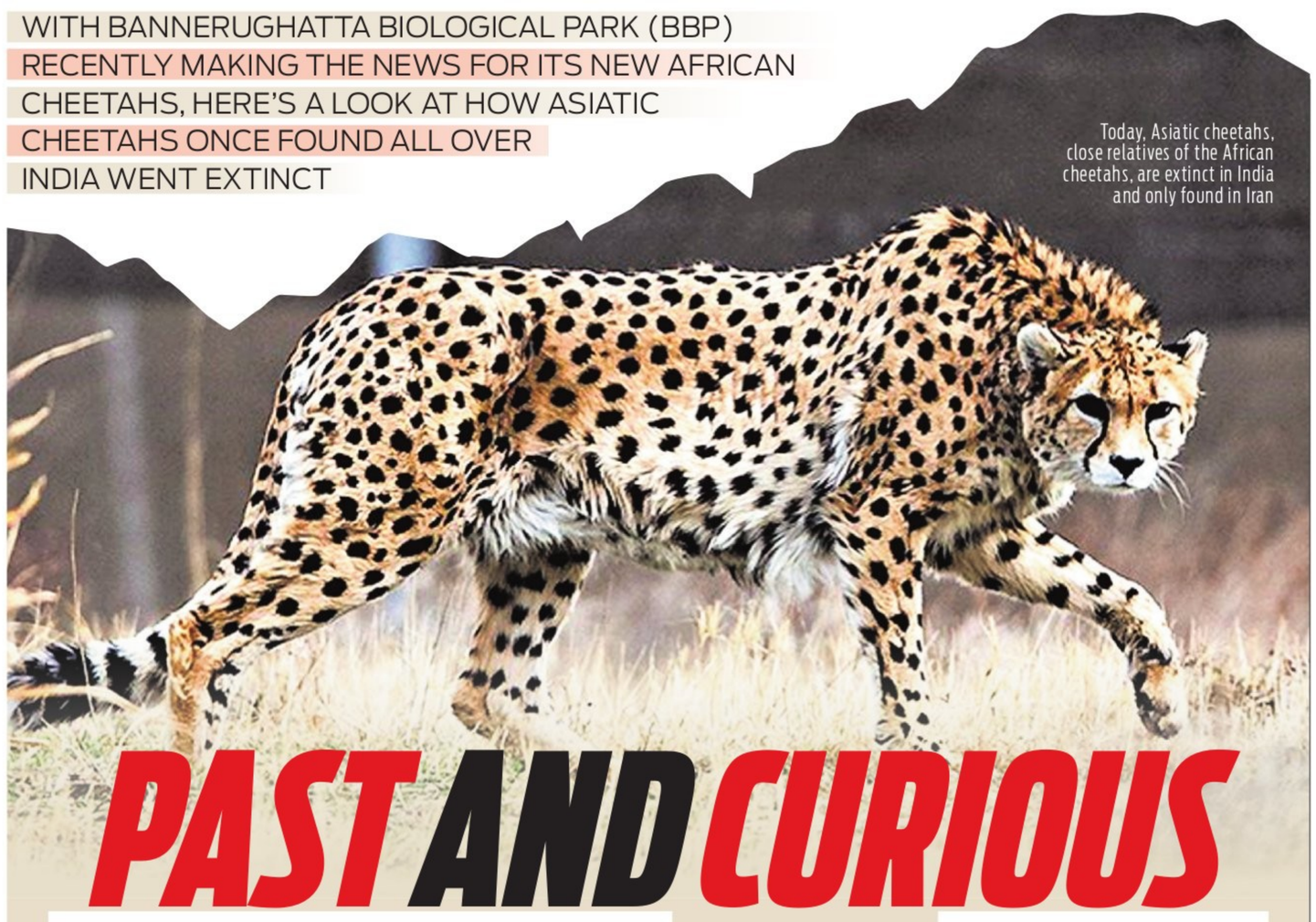
TOLL ON ENVIRONMENT

The accident caused the largest uncontrolled radioactive release into the environment ever recorded for any civilian operation

Just cool it!

PG 3

WITH BANNERUGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK (BBP) RECENTLY MAKING THE NEWS FOR ITS NEW AFRICAN CHEETAHS, HERE'S A LOOK AT HOW ASIATIC CHEETAHS ONCE FOUND ALL OVER INDIA WENT EXTINCT



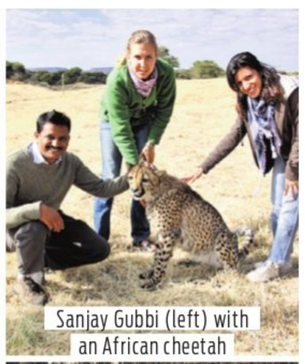
Today, Asiatic cheetahs, close relatives of the African cheetahs, are extinct in India and only found in Iran

PAST AND CURIOUS

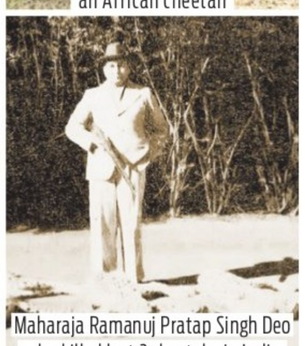
MAHIMA NAGARAJU

BENGALURU'S BBP recently welcomed four new animal residents, two male and two female African cheetahs, as new additions to its exhibit. But long before this, their close relative, the Asiatic cheetah, roamed free all over India, including parts of Karnataka. "They were found everywhere – Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. In Karnataka, they were found in Ballari, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Chikkamagaluru and even near Bandipur National Park during colonial times, before hunting and loss of their grassland habitat to agriculture caused them to go extinct," says Sanjay Gubbi, wildlife biologist and programme head at Holématthi Nature Foundation.

Slightly smaller and lighter in colour than their African counterparts, these majestic big cats have been declared extinct in India since 1952, the last three of their ilk losing their lives to a maharaja's bullet in 1947. "The last recorded instance is of Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of the princely state of Koriya shooting three of them. There have been unconfirmed reports of cheetahs in the wild after that but it's hard to be sure because people often confuse them with leopards," shares Gubbi.



Sanjay Gubbi (left) with an African cheetah



Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo who killed last 3 cheetahs in India

Cheetahs weren't just the prey in royal hunts though but used to assist rulers much like hunting dogs. Medieval Mughal miniature paintings too, often depict cheetahs as pets and show dramatic scenes of their capture. "According to British-era gazettes and books written by Britishers in Karnataka, in 1896 an officer called Clay bought a cheetah from a tribal person for ₹10 and raised it for three years. Infamously, in 1799 after the Anglo-Mysore War, Tipu Sultan was found to have 16 (living) cheetahs with him – three were sent to King George," says Gubbi.

In fact, this was happening as recently as the 1940s, according to biodiversity expert Samad Kottur, and close to home too. Although the Maharajas of Mysore never had pet cheetahs, their northern neighbours in Kolhapur did. "The Maharaja of Kolahpur, around 1945, used to travel from Toranagallu (in Ballari) to Koppal by train along with his cheetahs brought in bullock carts. Between Toranagallu and Koppal were beautiful grasslands where even today, there are black bucks. The king would have the cheetahs on charpoys with black bags over their eyes and when a black buck came in sight, they would release the cheetahs which would chase and capture the bucks," explains biodiversity expert Samad Kottur. Wildlife conservationist Santosh Martin adds, "People of the region still call the cheetah 'Shivangi bekku' in Kannada – derived from 'Shivana angi' (Shiva's clothes) because Shiva is believed to have worn a garment similar to a cheetah's coat."

That cheetahs were found across India and closely tied with humans is indisputable but whether they were native to the country's grasslands in the first place or introduced by kings throughout history is disputed. Kottur explains, "There is confusion between two theories, one which states cheetahs migrated from Persia into North India and evolved here. But there has not been enough archeological research done in this area. Another, [put forth by the late 'Tiger Man of India' Valmik Thapar] is that they were brought into India by the Mughals as pets and some escaped into the wild and became feral."

SPOTTED, SPOTTED

Four cheetahs in BBP were flown in from South Africa last week via Turkey. They travelled for 16 hours in specialised containers, after the original route through the Gulf, planned for February, was disrupted by the War. They are currently under a 30-day quarantine, an essential step in ensuring their wellbeing along with other animals. "We test for diseases that could come from abroad. We look out for rabies, feline parvoviruses, rectal and endoparasites. Transport also causes animals stress so this period allows them to acclimatise," explains AV Surya Sen, executive director, BBP. Once clear, they will be given a naturalistic environment with flat land. "Even though we cannot give them huge tracts of land, we can provide them enrichment through having them do sprints for their meat," says Sen.

On the fast track

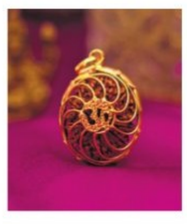
City Express' lensmen **Shashidhar Byrappa** and **Kevin Nashon** join the race as B'luru turns into a citywide track for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru

THE streets of ooru came alive on Sunday as the 18th TCS World 10K Bengaluru drew participants for one of the city's most anticipated fitness gatherings. Against the backdrop of an early summer morning, the run highlighted the growing culture of fitness and participation. Runners of all ages and abilities turned up in large numbers filling the routes with energy and enthusiasm. While seasoned participants took on the challenge of the timed races, the Open Run and the Majja Run fostered a more relaxed, celebratory mood, with families, friends and first-time runners joining in.

CITY READ

Rudraksha exhibition in city to conclude today

Rudralife is hosting an exhibition of Rudraksha at Lemon Tree Premier Ulsoor Lake, Halasuru. Open from 10am to 8pm, the event showcases authentic Rudraksha sourced from Nepal and tested in an ISO 9001:2015-certified laboratory. Visitors can explore rare pieces like the Indra Mala and Siddha Mala while also availing themselves of free expert consultations, complimentary mala-making sessions, and Rudraksha Abhishek rituals, making it both a retail and an experiential spiritual event. The exhibition will conclude on Monday. For details, contact 93229 47642.



TEJAL SINHA

CE interacts with Sudhir Yaduvanshi, the rising force behind Bollywood's title tracks, on finding his voice in *Dhurandhar*

'I didn't know if it would release in my voice'

GHIR-ghir baddal barsan de, jad teer milan do raavan de, ghir-ghir baddal barsange, hun badle rukh hawavan de, aayi, akkhan te aayi meri sardari' – this line from *Dhurandhar*'s *Aari Aari* doesn't just give you goosebumps, it announces a voice. It captures the storm, the scale, the sheer presence associated with Jaskirat Singh Rangi aka Hamza Ali Mazari (Ranveer Singh's character); but more interestingly, it mirrors the journey of the man behind the mic, Sudhir Yaduvanshi. A journey built in fragments – uncertainty, anonymity and a stubborn faith that if the voice has truth, it will travel.

"It's been years of hard work that have led to this moment. When that effort pays off in this way, it feels like the best thing possible. It's honestly a dream come true. Until the very end, I didn't know if it would release in my voice or what would happen. Like every other song, I just recorded it and thought, 'Let's see what happens.' But when I heard the final track for the first time, I couldn't contain my happiness. I have sung so many songs in Bollywood and I now got the break," says the singer who performs frequently in Bengaluru.

Yet, there's nothing 'overnight' about this moment. If anything, it's delayed recognition catching up. "I once accidentally sang in school and later, I sang in college just for my own happiness. I never imagined that I would become a professional singer or enter the music industry. When people started showing love to my voice, I fell in love with it too," he admits.

The industry, as he describes it, is unpredictable – sometimes indifferent. But it only takes one moment to tilt things. "Two years ago, I met Shashwat Sachdev sir, and I sang the title track of *Kill* for him. Then I got a song *Na de dil pardesi nu tenu jauda paudunga* in *Dhurandhar* with Hanumankind. It was a small portion, but I was happy because it got noticed. Now, in Dhurandhar: The Revenge, I not only got a big part but also people know me. I also had a great interaction with Ranveer sir at the music launch."

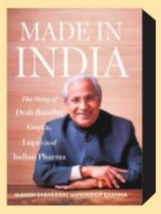
What changed this time was awareness, a sense that something big was unfolding. "Earlier, I didn't know about my part, but this time I did have an idea. When Shashwat sir's manager called me, I was asked to come to the studio. But this time, I was called to Aditya Dhar sir's house. The entire team was there. That's when I realised something big was happening. I mentally prepared myself. Of course, there was nervousness, but that's natural," he recalls.

Strangely, despite the scale, his internal process remained simple. "I feel like I was born to sing title tracks. (laughs) Maybe music directors see something in my voice, a powerful quality suited for title tracks, like Sukhwinder Singh sir," he notes.

There's also a certain honesty in how he approaches his craft. "The best part about a folk voice is that you don't need specific preparation, it needs to be raw. I focus on two main things: proper sleep and avoiding cold items," he says.

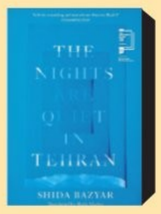
At this stage, ambition hasn't hardened into selectiveness yet. "I just feel grateful for any work I get. I accept it with humility and give my best," he adds.

BOOK NOOK



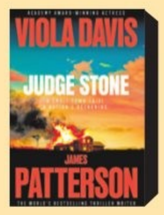
Made In India
by Manish Sabharwal and Sundeep Khanna

The novel charts the rise of India's pharmaceutical industry through the story of Lupin, a global pharmaceutical company based in India and its founder. It offers a bird's-eye view of how India became a global pharma powerhouse, blending industry evolution with entrepreneurial vision.



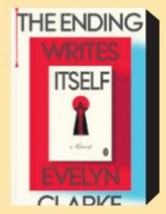
The Nights are quiet in Tehran
by Shida Bazyar, translated by Ruth Martin

In this book, the author explores how political upheaval shapes family life, memory and identity across generations.



Judge Stone
by James Patterson and Viola Davis

Judge Mary Stone, a judge and farmer in a small Alabama town, faces a deeply divisive case that challenges her ethics and sense of justice. The story talks about law, morality and community loyalty.



The Ending Writes Itself
by Evelyn Clarke

Six authors gather on a remote Scottish island to complete the final, unfinished novel of a legendary writer, only to face secrets and pressures that blur the line between fiction and reality.

WATERY WORLDS

Visitors lose themselves in the watercolour work on display at Namma Parampare, a group exhibition at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

SALMON TOASTIES

INGREDIENTS

- **Cream cheese:** Half cup
- **Chives:** 1 tbsp
- **Lemon zest:** 1 tsp
- **Smoked salmon:** 100 g
- **Lemon juice:** 1 tsp
- **Dill or parsley:** 1 tbsp
- **Sourdough:** 2 slices

METHOD

- In a mixing bowl, mash in cream cheese. Mix in 1 tbsp olive oil, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt and pepper.
- Assemble the spread on toast then layer with salmon on top. Finish with fresh herbs.

Contributed by **Pinky Arora,** Delhi

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My 6-year-old female Corgi developed multiple scabs with fur loss on her back. She has no prior skin issues. How can I identify the cause and treat it safely?

Sudden scabs and hair loss in a 6-year-old Corgi may be caused by allergies, flea, or tick infestations, bacterial or fungal infections (such as ringworm), or autoimmune skin disorders. In India, seasonal allergies and parasites are particularly common. To determine the cause, a veterinarian can perform skin scrapings, fungal cultures, blood tests and a detailed physical exam. Treatment will depend on the diagnosis and may include antibiotics or antifungals, medicated shampoos, parasite control and gentle topical care. Avoid home remedies or steroid use without veterinary supervision, as these can worsen the condition. Early professional care ensures safe and effective healing.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

CHOLESTEROL LEVELS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Cholesterol is often misunderstood. The goal should not be the elimination of it but to remove any imbalance. This will help you with optimal control and long-term heart health and performance.

1. UNDERSTAND CHOLESTEROL'S ROLE IN THE BODY

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance essential for hormone production, vitamin D synthesis and digestion. Our body produces most of it; the diet only adds to the total load.

2. KNOW THE KEY TYPES

There are different lipid profiles which include:

- LDL (bad cholesterol): Builds up in arteries, increasing heart risk
- HDL (good cholesterol): Helps remove excess cholesterol
- Triglycerides: Excess fat linked to metabolic issues

Your focus should be on lowering LDL and triglycerides, while supporting HDL.

3. WHY HIGH CHOLESTEROL IS RISKY

Excess LDL can form plaques in arteries, restricting blood flow and increasing risk of heart attack and stroke. High cholesterol is often silent and hence will require testing to be identified.

4. TEST REGULARLY

Get tested every 4–6 years, or more often if you have risk factors. A lipid profile test measures all key markers and typically requires fasting for accurate results.

5. WHAT IMPACTS YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

The cholesterol levels are mainly affected by the following:

- Diet high in saturated/trans fats
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Obesity, smoking, stress
- Genetics and underlying conditions

6. IMPROVE YOUR CHOLESTEROL

You can improve your cholesterol by:

- Eating fiber-rich foods (oats, fruits, vegetables)
- Choosing healthy fats (nuts, seeds, olive oil)
- Exercising 30–45 mins on most days
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Quitting smoking

7. FITNESS & RECOVERY

Regular training improves lipid metabolism and cardiovascular efficiency. Combine strength training with cardio and yoga or breathing work to manage stress.

Cholesterol management is not about restriction, it's about balance, awareness and consistency. When you monitor your numbers and align your lifestyle, you significantly reduce long-term health risks while improving daily energy and performance.

By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Sketch Summer

Unleash your kid's creativity at this five-day graphite sketching bootcamp. They will learn the basics of sketching while creating two graphite artworks with all the materials provided at the event. Kids over 8 years of age can participate.

WHEN: April 27, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
CALL: 73539 41419

Act It Out!

Dive into a dynamic and immersive summer theatre workshop designed for young performers aged 12-17 years. Enhance creativity and develop artistic skills in a fun and engaging environment. The workshop is priced at ₹6,500 per person.

WHEN: April 27, 10.30am onwards
WHERE: Yours Truly Theatre, Indiranagar
CALL: 81233 53093

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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On the Beat

Kickstart your week with a mix of Bollywood, Punjabi and BollyTech beats. Turn up the energy with DJ Rohan & DJ Bass Tonic and enjoy a fusion of commercial hits and party anthems on the dance floor.

WHEN: April 27, 7.30pm
WHERE: Filter Pub and Club, Koramangala
CALL: 91087 50013

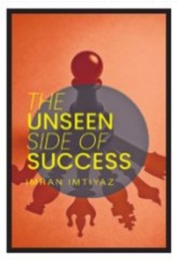
Classic Tale Fitness Goals

Witness a masterful stage adaptation of the literary epic Parva. With stirring performances, live music and emotional depth, this production explores the complexities of human struggles and choices.

WHEN: September 6, 10am
WHERE: MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball Court, Jayanagar
DETAILS: district.in

This beginner-friendly session blends cardio, strength training and basketball skills and is designed for working professionals and students who want to have fun. Unleash your physical fitness goals with a structured 75-minute session open to all skill levels.

WHEN: April 27, 7am
WHERE: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Kohinakunte
DETAILS: allevents.in



Beyond Pages

Experience a book reading of *The Unseen Side of Success* by Imran Imtiyaz, talking about the lessons no one tells you about life. It explores the part of the journey to success that is often overlooked, including the uncertainty, doubt, slow progress and moments when nothing seems to move forward.

WHEN: April 27, 2pm
WHERE: Digitastra, Cunningham Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Tandoori Bites

Experience the art of tandoor and dum cooking at this event curated by MasterChef India winner Mohammed Ashiq. Relish a pop-up menu inspired by the rich flavours of Awadhi, Mughlai and Purani Dilli cuisine, featuring smoky kebabs, charcoal-grilled tikkas and dum-cooked biryani.

WHEN: April 27, 12pm
WHERE: Ishaara, Residency Road
CALL: 97780 62926

Jazzy Evenings

Experience an exclusive jazz night at a rooftop venue to celebrate International Jazz Day. Expect a seamless blend of soulful jazz and elevated mixology. Complementing the musical experience, enjoy a curated selection of crafted-for-the-night cocktails.

WHEN: April 30, 7.30pm onwards
WHERE: Nazaara, Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Hebbal
CALL: 96064 82965

ARTCORNER

FIELDS OF COLOURS

Hope and happiness are carried across empty fields in this painting by artist Noor Ul Huda

JUST COOL IT!

The temperature is steadily soaring to new heights. To beat the heat, it is important to hydrate yourself properly. *CE* curates some traditional and modern summer drinks that will help you chill this season

Pathaneer Ice Apple Combo By D Punitha

Ingredients
- Pathaneer
- Ice Apple

Method

Cut ice apples (nungu) into cubes and add them to pathaneer (palm nectar). Add a tinge of lime.

Note: You don't need to add sugar.

Apple, fresh figs and date shake By D Punitha

Ingredients
- Apple: 1
- Figs: 2-3
- Dates: 2-3
- Milk: 250 ml

Method

Blend figs, apples, and dates with milk. Serve chilled. Top it with ice cubes, if you wish.

Note: Dates and figs give the required sweetness. However, you can add sugar as per taste.

Cold Milo By Olivia Daniel

Ingredients
- Milo powder: 3 tbsp
- Full cream cold milk: 1½ cups
- Ice cubes: 8–10
- Chocolate ice cream: 3 scoops
- Condensed milk: 100 g
- A pinch of salt

Method

Add all the ingredients to a blender. Blend for about 30 seconds, or until the ice is fully crushed and the mixture is smooth and frothy. Pour into chilled glasses. Dust 1-2 spoons of Milo powder for an extra rich finish (optional).

Tender Coconut Cooler

Ingredients
- Tender coconut: 1 (pulp & water)
- Sabja seeds: 1 tsp
- Lemon: 1/2
- Salt: ¼ tsp
- Green chillies: 1-2 slit (optional)
- Sugar/honey: 2-3 tsp (optional)

Method

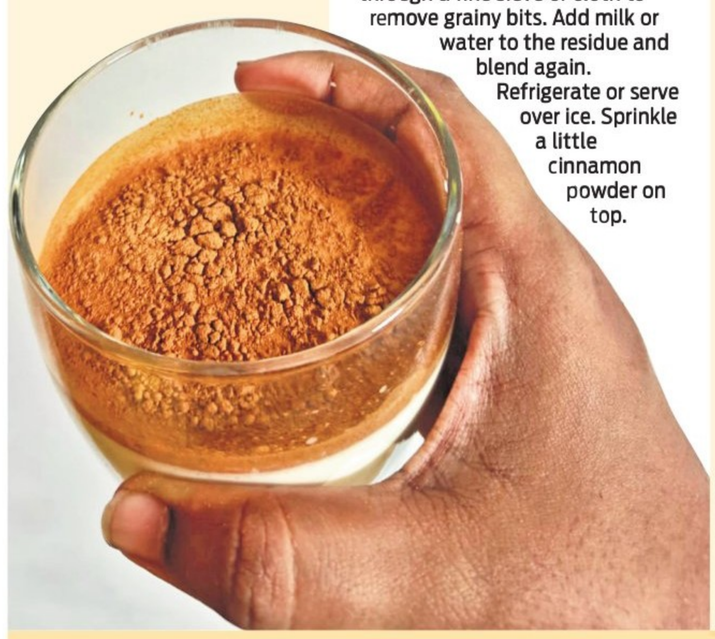
Soak the sabja seeds in water for 10-15 minutes until they swell and turn jelly-like. Meanwhile, open the tender coconut, collect the water, and chop the soft pulp into small pieces. In a large glass, combine the coconut water, pulp, lemon juice, salt (and sugar or honey if you prefer sweetness or a slit green chilli for a kick). Stir well. Add the soaked sabja seeds, mix gently, then add plenty of ice cubes. Give it a final stir, pour into a tall glass, and serve chilled.

Horchata By Olivia Daniel

Ingredients
- Any long-grain white rice: 1 cup
- Almond or cashews: 20 g
- Water (for soaking)
- Cinnamon stick: 1 or 15 g (powder)
- Condensed milk: 1 cup
- Vanilla extract: 1 tsp
- Ice cubes

Method

Soak the rice and almonds (or cashew) in water with the cinnamon stick for 4–6 hours (or overnight). Dry roast the rice and almonds in medium heat for about 10 minutes. Blend it with water, cinnamon, vanilla extract, and condensed milk. Strain through a fine sieve or cloth to remove grainy bits. Add milk or water to the residue and blend again. Refrigerate or serve over ice. Sprinkle a little cinnamon powder on top.



Masala Shikanji

Ingredients
- Lemon: 3
- Sugar: 2½ tbsp
- Salt: To taste
- Black salt: ½ tsp
- Coriander powder: 2 tsp
- Black pepper powder: 2 tsp
- Roasted cumin powder: 1 tsp
- Mint leaves: A handful
- Chilled water/soda: To top up
- Ice cubes: A few (optional)

Method: In a large jug, combine the freshly-squeezed juice of three lemons with sugar, salt, black salt, coriander powder, black pepper powder and roasted cumin powder. Add a small splash of chilled water. Whisk until the sugar fully dissolves and the spices are evenly blended. Lightly bruise a handful of mint leaves between palms to release their aroma. Add them to the mixture along with a few ice cubes to keep it chilled. Pour in chilled water or soda to fill the jug, stir gently to combine and serve.

Passion Fruit Lassi

Ingredients
- Passion fruit pulp: ½ cup
- Milk: 1 cup
- Curd: 1 cup
- Cinnamon powder: ¼ tsp
- Cardamom powder: ¼ tsp
- Vanilla essence: ½ tsp
- Sugar: To taste
- Salt: A pinch
- Ice cubes: Optional

Method

Scoop out the passion fruit pulp. Add the pulp to a blender along with 1 cup of curd, 1 cup of milk, cinnamon powder, cardamom powder, and vanilla essence. Add a pinch of salt to balance the tanginess, then add sugar to taste. If you prefer it chilled, add a handful of ice cubes, then blend everything until the mixture is smooth, creamy, and slightly frothy. Pour into tall glasses. Garnish with a spoonful of passion fruit pulp before serving.

Compiled by
Sonu M Kothari, Neha Jagath

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAHANDER SINGH** (Old Name) Residing at No.N F 704, Sriram Smrithi Apartments, Attibele- Sarjapur Road Bidaraguppe Post, Bengaluru, 562107 have changed my name to **MAHANDER SINGH BISHT** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 24/4/2026 Before Notary **SIVAKUMARA .M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Malathi K ,** (Old Name) W/o. Suresh T. S, Aged about 50 years, R/at: No.1190, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Near Brigade Omega Banashankari 6th Stage 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560 098, have changed my name as **MALATHI SURESH** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 23.04.2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.605204, Warrant Officer, **SYED NASIM HAIDER**, S/o late Syed Nazir Husain, resident of No.3, 9th Cross, Near Chick Om Shakthi Temple, Vinayaka Layout, Dodnekundi Extn, Bengaluru North, Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru 560037 have changed the name of my spouse from **RUKHSANA BEGUM** to **RUKHSANA HAIDER** vide Affidavit Dated: 24/04/2026 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RIYANJALI NANJAPPA, D/o Madhu Nanjappa, aged about 26 years, Presently R/at Flat No. 442, JAL Vayu Towers, Near NGEF, Benniganahalli, Bangalore-560038, do hereby declare that both the names i.e **RIYANJALI NANJAPPA** and **RIYANJALI NANJAPPA ITTIRA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **RIYANJALI NANJAPPA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **HEMALATHA .P** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Boobalan J**, son of Jeyakumar, residing at No. 12, Middle Street, Vasanthkrishnapuram Post, Tirukkoyilur, Villupuram District, Tamilnadu 605758, Presently residing at No. 22, 7th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Maruthinagar, Bhadrappa Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore - 560 094, do hereby declare that the names **BOOBALAN J, J Boopal** and **Boobalan J** refer to one and the same person i.e., my self. That I intend to use **Boobalan J** as my legal and correct name for all future official, educational and legal purposes. Vide affidavit dated 25.04.2026 sworn before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURMA DEVI** W/o Sohan Lal, Residing at ward No.2, Bidarahalli Hobli, Kannuru Village and post, Bengaluru - 560077. Hereby solemnly declare that in my Pan Card and Voter ID my correct name is mentioned as **SURMA DEVI**, but in my Aadhar card it is wrongly mentioned as **SUMA DEVI**. Both the names belong to me only, request the concerned authorities to do necessary changes as **SURMA DEVI** vide affidavit dated.13.04.2025 sworn to before Notery, **H Sridhar Rao**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PADMAVATHI.M** My Son's name is **MANVITH KRISHNA.V** is entered as **MANVITH** and Child's mother's name is entered as **PADMAVATHI** on Birth Certificate (803162/B/B/2023/029358) my Son's name should be entered as **MANVITH KRISHNA.V** and the child's mother's name should be entered as **PADMAVATHI.M** in birth certificate. All the government documents of my child's mother including Aadhar card Pan ration card Etc, are in **PADMAVATHI. M** vide affidavit dated: 23/4/2026 Before Notary **KENCHAPPA** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SREEDEVI** W/o B C GARUDA, residing at TOWER 4, 36A, SNN CLERMONT 54, OUTER RING ROAD, NAGAVARA, BANGALORE NORTH, PO:NAGAWARA, DIST:BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, 560045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **SREEDEVI GARUDA**. henceforth I shall be known and called as **SREEDEVI GARUDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.PRASANNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JEEVAN .J, S/o Sri Jayaram .E.M,, aged 18 years, R/at Ward No.9 Mandibele Road,Vijipura, Amanikere, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562135 do hereby declare that my correct name is **JEEVAN .J,** but in my Migration Certificate my name is mentioned as **JEEVAN** instead of **JEEVAN J.**, vide affidavit dated 24.04.2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P N NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt. SHILPA HARSHA, W/o Sri Harsha H Magod, aged about 44 years, R/at No.B-004, Adarsh Citrine Apartments, Silver Oak Street Puttenahalli, JP nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, do hereby declare that both the names i.e **SHILPA HARSHA** or **SHILPA GIDDAPPAGOWDRU CHANDRAPPA** or **SHILPA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHILPA HARSHA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 22-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. PUTTARAJU.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIVEK DEVRAJ**, aged about 38 years, son of Devaraj Venkatesh, presently residing at No. 33, 2nd Cross, Decosta Square, Near ITC Infotech, Cooke Town, Bangalore - 560 084, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VIVEK DEVRAJ** to **VIVECK JAI DEVARAJ** vide affidavit dated 25.04.2026 sworn before R. Sulakshana, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MOHAMMED ISMAIL Son of MOHAMMED ASHRAF, Resident of No. 25, 5th Cross, KSCB Quarters, Lakshmidevinagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - 560096, have changed my name from **MAHAMMAD ISMAIL. A** to **MOHAMMED ISMAIL,** vide affidavit dated 24/4/2026 sworn to before C K Anupama Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHUBHAM SUBRAV ARAWKAR** (Old Name) Residing at flat 203,2nd floor,111, Aditis Kanasu,10th main, Sector 6, HSR Layout, Bengaluru- 560102 have changed my name to **SHUBHAM ARAWKAR** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 24/4/2026 Before Notary **SIVAKUMARA .M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHARADA KESHAVARAO JOSHI, W/o. No.JC57924, Ex-Sub, late. Keshav Taman Bhat Joshi, residing at Shrivatsa, Plot No.10, Door No.2/625, Vijayanagar, Opp. LAL Mookandapalli, Hosur, Hosur Indl Post Complex, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu - 635126, presently camped at Bengaluru, have changed my name from **SARADA** to **SHARADA KESHAVARAO JOSHI**, vide Affidavit Dated: 23/04/2026 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, hitherto known as **G S PUSHKAR**, S/o G.S. Sheshagiri, R/at No.39, Old No.11, 17th Cross, Between 4th and 6th Main, Near MEWS Hostel, Malleshwaram West, bangalore North, Malleshwaram west, Bangalore, karnataka-560055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **PUSHKAR SHESHAGIRI GORUR** henceforth I shall be known and called as **PUSHKAR SHESHAGIRI GORUR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.PRASANNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VISHWANATH P JUCHANI** R/o # 57, Sankalpa Nilaya, 9th Cross Kaveri Enclave, Laxmipura Village Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore - 560097, hereby declares that correct names of mine, father's & wife's are **VISHWANATH P JUCHANI, PARAMESHWARAPPA JUCHANI** and **SOUMYA V JUCHANI,** respectively, vide affidavit dated 24.04.2026, sworn before notary K.C. Pemmaiah, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **ADITYA SHIROLKAR AND RAKSHA SHIROLKAR**, Address at: Flat No.16127, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere Varthur, Bangalore-560 087. Hereby declare that, We have changed our minor Son's (Date of birth 13.06.2019) name from **'SIDDHARTH'** to **'SIDDHARTH SHIROLKAR'**, Vide Affidavit dated 25.04.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

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Calendar gets Hindi release

A still from the film

Adarsh Gunduraj

CE FEATURES

CALENDAR, starring Adarsh Gunduraj, which was originally released in Kannada, is now making its way to the Hindi audiences, hitting the theatres on April 24. Speaking about the film, actor and producer Adarsh Gunduraj says, "*Calendar* was released in Kannada on April 6. The film was appreciated by both audiences and critics for its women-centric theme and content-driven approach. VK Films (Hombale group) had distributed our film in Kannada. Now, the Hindi version is being released in multiplexes across Bengaluru and Mumbai,".

He then adds, "We are also in discussions with OTT platforms and television channels for a wider release. Since the subject of the film is universal and relatable, we believe it will connect with other sets of audiences as well. Preparations are also underway to release the film overseas." Speaking about the film's theme, Adarsh notes that it revolves around an experience common to all women, yet one that is rarely explored on screen in mainstream cinema. *Calendar* features Nivishka Patil and Sushmita in key roles, with Malashree appearing in a special role. The ensemble cast of the film also includes Ramesh Indira, Pramod Shetty, Prakash Tuminadu, Suchendra Prasad, and Chandraprabha. On the technical front, *Calendar* has music composed by Sunad Gowtham and cinematography by Ramesh Koira.

Ramesh Aravind

Ramesh Aravind speaks about how KD pushed him out of his comfort zone, stepping into a pivotal role and collaborating with Prem, ahead of the film's release

REINVENTION IS ESSENTIAL: RAMESH ARAVIND

A SHARADHAA

RAMESH Aravind is no stranger to reinvention, but with *KD: The Devil*, he finds himself stepping into unfamiliar terrain, something he openly embraces. Recalling a line from an old advertisement, he begins thoughtfully, "What is the last time you did something for the first time?" For Ramesh, *KD* is exactly that moment. In conversation with CE, he says he is rediscovering the thrill of doing something for the first time through his role in the film, which is backed by KVN Productions, ahead of its release on April 30.

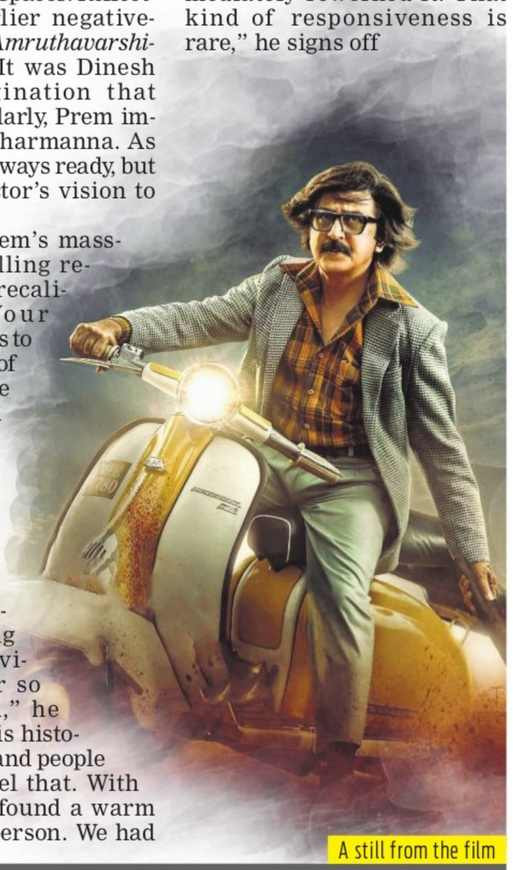
He says, "For decades, audiences have seen me largely as a lead or parallel hero. *KD* is one of those rare films where I step into a pivotal character that is not defined by screen time, but by impact." The role, he admits, was not an immediate yes. His hesitation came from habit and legacy. "When Prem first approached me, I told him this is new for me. I have always been the protagonist. But he was clear. He said the screen time may not be much, but the impact will be powerful. That conviction stayed with me."

What ultimately convinced him was not just the character, but the filmmaker's passion. "Prem would not let go," Ramesh says. "He was determined that I play this role. I admire that madness in filmmakers, the kind that pushes you out of your comfort zone." Set in a gritty world, *KD* brings together a formidable cast including Dhruva Sarja, Ravichandran, Sanjay Dutt, Shilpa Shetty, and Sudeep. For Ramesh, stepping into this high-energy ensemble meant adapting both emotionally and physically. "In all my years in cinema, I have never had blood splashed across my face like this," he laughs. "Usually, it is just a small mark, a scratch. But here, Prem would literally throw buckets of red on us. It was intense and completely new." He pauses, then adds, "As actors, we need that. Reinvention is essential."

Interestingly, Ramesh does not see this shift as a drastic transformation, but as an extension of trust in storytelling. "I did not have to unlearn anything," he explains. "When a director narrates with clarity, you instinctively understand what is needed. You just align yourself with that vision." He credits directors for pushing actors into new spaces. Reflecting on his earlier negative-shaded role in *Amruthavarshini*, he notes, "It was Dinesh Baboo's imagination that shaped it. Similarly, Prem imagined me as Dharmanna. As actors, we are always ready, but it takes a director's vision to place us there."

Matching Prem's mass-driven storytelling required subtle recalibration. "Your performance has to match the tone of the film," he says. "I am used to subtle acting, but here the energy is different, and that is exciting." Off-screen, the film became a space for reconnections. "Working again with Ravichandran after so long was good," he shares. "There is history between us, and people on set could feel that. With Sanjay Dutt, I found a warm and engaging person. We had many conversations."

Despite the scale and the hype surrounding *KD*, Ramesh remains grounded. "For me, it is always about the role and how well it is shaped," says Ramesh. "In a creative field, things can go wrong in a flash. But what impressed me about Prem was his willingness to adapt. When something did not work, like a song, he immediately reworked it. That kind of responsiveness is rare," he signs off



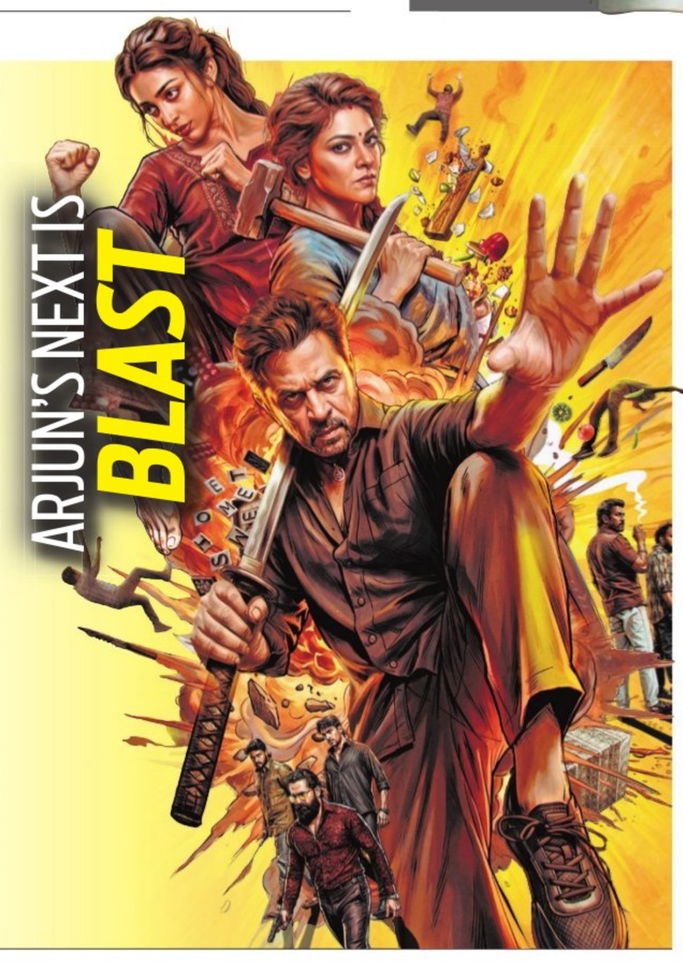
A still from the film

CE FEATURES

AGS Production's next, tentatively titled AGS 28 and starring Arjun Sarja, Abhirami, and Preity Mukhundhan in lead roles, has now been titled *Blast*. Directed by debutant filmmaker Subash K Raj, the film went on floors in August 2025 and wrapped filming in February this year.

The ensemble cast of the film also includes Vivek Prasanna, John Kokken, Arjun Chidambaram, Pawan, Dileepan, Vinod Sagar and Bala Hasan R. Although plot details for the film have not been revealed, the makers have stated that it would be a "wholesome family entertainer". However, Netflix had, in its earlier announcement, revealed the plotline: "A family trained to protect the powerless becomes the most dangerous obstacle of all."

Composer Ravi Basrur, prominently known for his music in the KGF films, is all set to make his Tamil debut with *Blast*. The rest of the technical team includes cinematographer Arun Radhakrishnan, editor Pradeep E Ragav, and art director Veeramani Ganesan.



No one wants to take risks: Diganth Manchale

CE FEATURES

AFTER spending more than two decades in cinema, Diganth Manchale is facing one of the toughest phases of his career. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of his upcoming Kannada film *Rudra Kaala*, the actor shares an honest and emotional account of the challenges within the industry. Diganth reveals that opportunities have become increasingly limited, even for actors with experience and recognition. According to him, the Kannada film industry is currently going through a period of uncertainty, with many producers hesitant to invest in new projects. The situation has been further affected by the lack of strong support from OTT platforms, making it harder for films to reach audiences and recover costs.

Highlighting the emotional and financial pressure he experienced, he adds, "At one point, things became so uncertain that I seriously thought about quitting acting." Diganth shares that he had rented out his house in Bengaluru, and was living off that income. "I even considered going back to my hometown, Thirthahalli, and taking up agriculture. It felt like a more stable and dependable life," he adds. He also notes about how quickly the situation has changed. Just a few months ago, producers had approached him with film offers, only to later withdraw due to unfavorable market conditions. "There's a sense of fear across the industry. People are unsure about taking risks," he explains. Despite these challenges, Diganth Manchale remains hopeful about what lies ahead. He is currently working on *Rudra Kaala* and will also be seen alongside Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the Telugu film *Maa Inti Bangaram*. He believes these projects could mark a turning point in his career and is looking forward to better opportunities in the days to come.

John Wick spinoff goes on floors

CE FEATURES

LAST April, we had reported that *Ip Man*-fame Donnie Yen is reprising his blind assassin character, Caine, from *John Wick* in a spinoff film. The latest development is that production on the film is underway.

The spinoff is directed by Donnie Yen himself from a screenplay by Mattson Tomlin and Michael McGrale, based on a draft by *John Wick* filmmaker Chad Stahelski, as well as the Keanu Reeves starrer's producers Erica Lee and Basil Iwanyk of Thunder Road Pictures. Yen's credits as a director include *Legend of the Wolf*, *Shanghai Affairs*, *Ballistic Kiss*, *Protege de la Rose Noire*, *Sakra*, and *The Prosecutor*. The upcoming film also stars Rina Sawayama, known for her *John Wick: Chapter 4* character, Akira.

Park Chan Wook's Western adds key cast members

CE FEATURES

SOUTH Korean auteur Park Chan-wook, who is set to preside over the jury at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival, is also heading to the French Riviera with a major Western project featuring an impressive ensemble cast. According to reports, the film is titled *The Brigands of Rattlecreek* and brings together Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey, Oscar nominee Austin Butler, and Pedro Pascal. Chinese star Tang Wei, who starred in the filmmaker's critically-acclaimed 2022 title *Decision to Leave*, is also on board the project.

Written by S Craig Zahler, the screenplay has long been a passion project for the *Oldboy* filmmaker, who did revisions on the most recent draft. The story follows a sheriff and a doctor who seek revenge against a group of bandits who exploit a torrential thunderstorm to rob and terrorise the occupants of a small town.